THE HISTORY OF A LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

Compiled by William A. Senkus

SPONSORED BY THE
LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
William A. Senkus, Director
211 Ripley Place
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Photo By
Wm. Senkus

500th ANNIVERSARY
of
SAINT CASIMIR
THE PATRON SAINT OF LITHUANIA

1484-1984 March 4, 1984

DEDICATION

This book, "The History of a Lithuanian-American Community in Elizabeth, New Jersey," compiled by William A. Senkus, Historian, is dedicated to the early Lithuanian pioneer settlers or immigrants who had made their homes in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Saint Kazimir Beneficial Society was organized December 13, 1891, in this city. It was the first Lithuanian Society here to bring the European new arrivals or immigrants together into a fraternal organization. Membership continued to increase every year.

The object of St.Kazimir Society was to bring "bretherly love, mutual aid, especially in misfortune or sickness, morality, care of sick member, burial of the deceased, and love of the Fatherland."

The members of St.Kazimir Society, with President Vincent Ambrasevicius, were instrumental in 1893 in founding the Sts.Peter and Paul Parish, first located in a store at 80 Bond Street, Elizabeth.

In January of 1895,Bishop Wiggers, consecrated the STS. PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C. CHURCH, located at 216 Ripley Place, Elizabeth.

Rev.Joseph Servetka, the first Pastor, celebrated this momentous event, by offering a Solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving.

Please address all communications(letters, inquires, etc.) to-

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Linden,N.J. 07036

Publication of this "History" book was made possible in part by the following doners: (Doners are from Elizabeth,N.J.except where noted).

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Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, Associate Pastor(Retired)
Rev.Ronald Marczewski, Assistant
Rev.John J.Kinta,Putnam,Conn.(Deceased)
Deacon Henry and Isabelle Returwitis
Deacon Anthony and Monica Samalonis,Linden,N.J.
Holy Name Society of Sts.Peter and Paul Parish
Altar Society of Sts.Peter and Paul Church
Albinas Stukas
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Joseph Zvirblis, " "
Miss Ann Zvirblis, " "
Miss Dorothy Zemaitis, Linden,N.J.
M/M Costy Endriunas, " "
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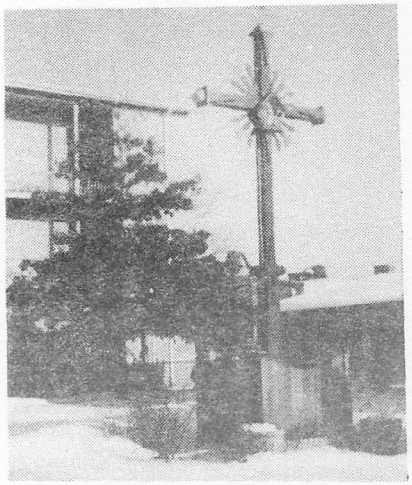
Miss Anne Laurinaitis, Los Angeles, Calif.

M/M William and Anne Klimas, Garwood,N.J.
M/M Frank Krysiak, Linden,N.J.
M/M Vaclovas Budnikas

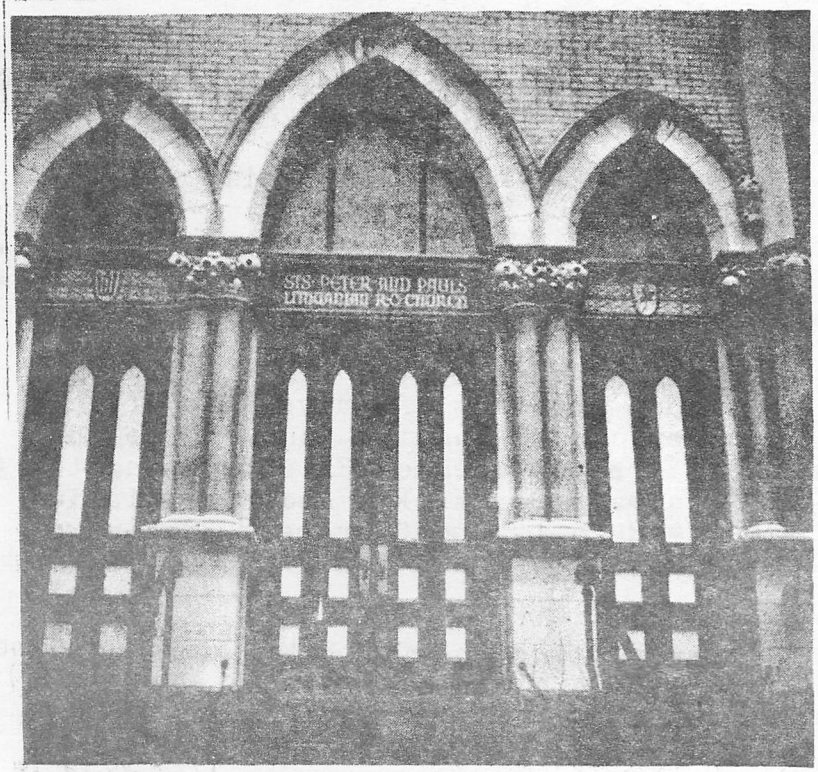
Anne and Tony Baronas,Colonia,N.J.

1984
Wayside Cross



Winter Scene
on the
Church Grounds
Sts.Peter and Paul Church

Entrance to
Sts.Peter and Paul Church,
Ripley Pl.,Elizabeth,N.J.



Įėjimas į Šv. Petro ir Povilo bažnyčią Elizabethe, N.J. Kairėje pusėje viršum durų matosi Gedimino stulpai, dešinėje — vytis.

"Darbininkas" Newspaper 9/2/82

THE COMMEMORATION OF SAINT CASIMIR
500th ANNIVERSARY
March 4,1984

ST.CASIMIR-PRINCE AND SAINT

Casimir was born in 1458 of royal parents. His father was Casimir the Great, Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland. At this period of history the Lithuanian Royal House of Jogaila ruled both Lithuania and Poland. During the reign of Vytautas the Great the royal crown which the Pope sent to him was intercepted, with the result that Grand Duke was never actually crowned king. Consequently, Lithuania was a Grand Duchy, though it was a fully sovereign state. Here the rulers of the Jogailian Family who governed both countries were destinated as Grand Dukes of Lithuania and Kings of Poland.

Early in his youth Casimir contracted Tuberculosis which caused him untimely death in 1484.

Thirty seven years after his death in 1521,Casimir was declared Blessed by the Church. He was canonized a Saint by Pope Leo X in 1602.

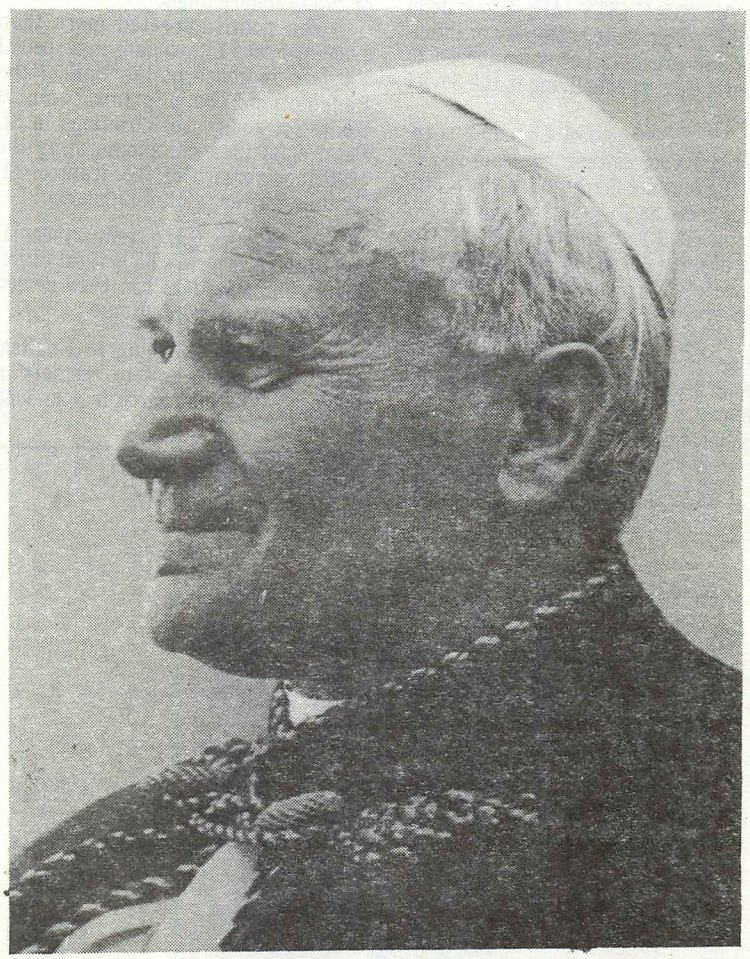
Casimir even in his boyhood gave signs of extraordinary piety and faith.

In an atmosphere of luxury and magnificence the young prince often fasted. His charity for the poor and needy was heroic.

Numerous miracles were wrought at his tomb. Many sick and lame people regained their health.

When his tomb was opened some one hundred and twenty-five years after his death, his body was found to be incorrupt.

Trip to ROME,ITALY February 26-March 5,1984. Pilgrimage will include a concelebrated Mass with Pope John Paul,II, scheduled for March4.
The Elizabeth parish group will be joining others from the U.SA. and Canada.



POPE JOHN PAUL II

Casimir's devotion to the Church was profound. His charity embraced especially those who were suffering pain or need.

St.Casimir was declared Patron Saint of Lithuania. He is deeply venerated not only in that country but all over Europe,United States and Canada.

Source-Rev.Anthony P.Kasper,
Associate Pastor of Sts.
Peter and Paul(Lithuanian)
R.C. Church
Moderator and Editor of the
Sodality's "Queen's Page"
March, 1949

Pope advises Lithuanians

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John Paul II paid tribute yesterday to Lithuania and urged Lithuanians abroad to support their people living in the Soviet Union.

"The very soul of Lithuania is reflected in your culture," he said.

"Your brothers and sisters still living there eagerly look to you in their sorrows and joys, in the daily difficulties of life," John Paul said. "They appreciate your support. They count on your prayers."

Lithuania, in northeastern Europe by the Baltic Sea, became a Soviet republic after Soviet troops occupied the country in 1940. The 1970 census put the population at 3.1 million in an area of 25,174 square miles.

The pontiff greeted more than 1,000 overseas Lithuanians in a special Vatican audience at the Hall of the Benediction. The pilgrims came to Rome for today's celebrations in St. Peter's Basilica commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania.

No pilgrims came from Lithuania, and Vatican sources said several Lithuanian church leaders had been denied permission to travel to Rome.

The Pope, speaking in English, asked the Lithuanians to "remain in solidarity with the church in your land of origin."

Source-Newark Star Ledger 3/4/84

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PICTURE

Pope John Paul II offers prayers in the Lithuanian College Chapel in Rome. Picture courtesy of Vincent Samaska, MAMD President.

Source-"Vytis"Magazine

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA PICTURE

POPE JOHN PAUL II
ST.CASIMIR 500 JUBILEE
MARCH 4, 1984
Source-"Vytis"Magazine

Lithuanians celebrate St. Casimir's feast

VATICAN CITY (NC) — Representatives of the Newark Archdiocese were at Pope John Paul II's Mass commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of Lithuania's patron, St. Casimir.

Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth, led a delegation from his Lithuanian parish to join in the celebration.

At the Pope's weekly audience, he noted that St. Casimir, the son of a Polish king, died at the age of 26 while visiting Lithuania. He said the Mass should "commemorate the anniversary and show the deep solidarity in the communion of faith and charity of the church of Rome with the church that is in Lithuania.

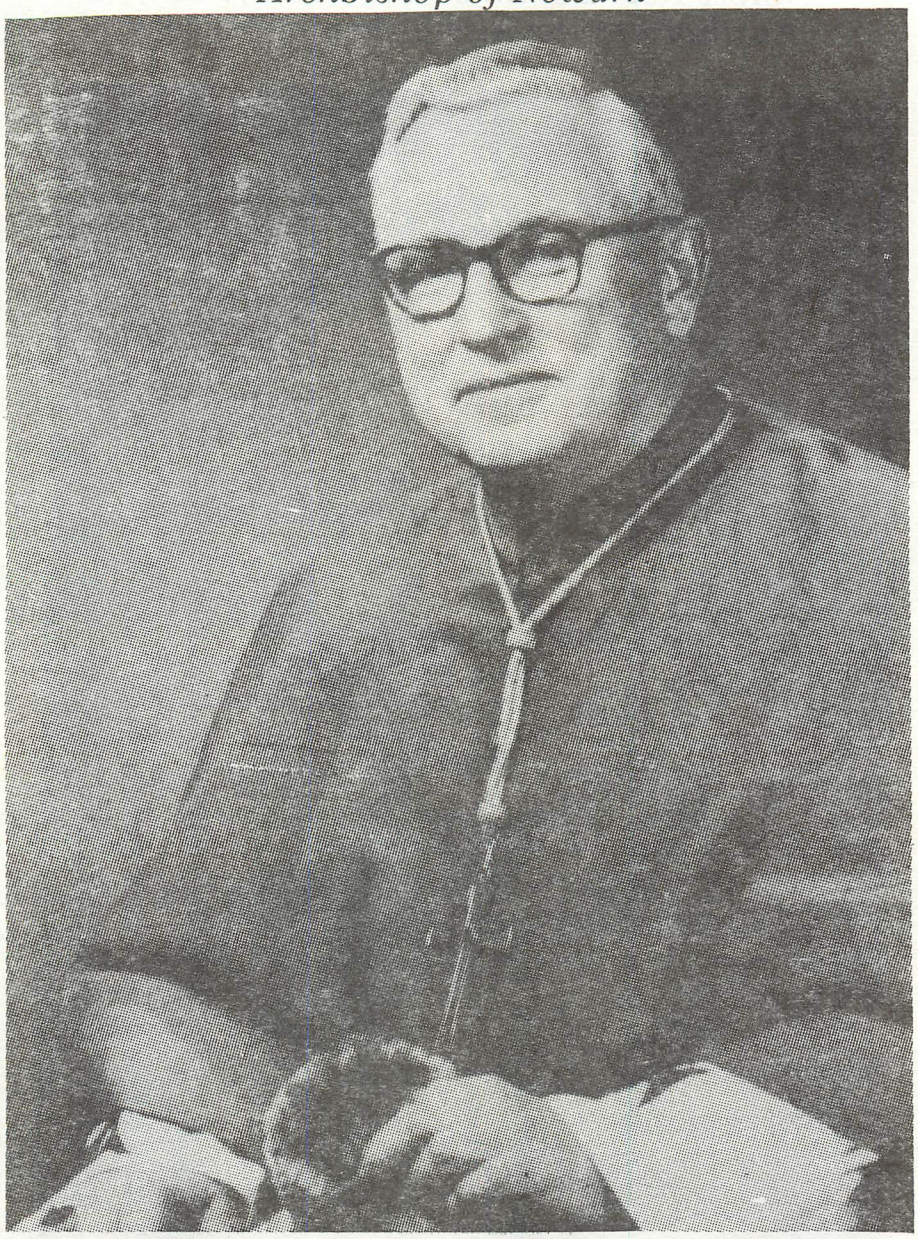
"I ask everyone to pray to God for the Catholic Lithuanian people, so that they will know how to persevere in the faith towards the spiritual inheritance left by St. Casimir," the Pope said.

Lithuania, once an independent nation bordering Poland, was annexed by the Soviet Union during World War II as a direct result of its pact with Nazi Germany. Despite strict government control over religious activity, Lithuania is still estimated to be 80 percent Catholic.

Last April, Pope John Paul urged full religious freedom for Lithuanians during a talk to four Lithuanian bishops. It was the first time since 1938 that a Lithuanian bishop had been allowed to visit the Holy See, and was considered a major step toward better relations between the Vatican and Moscow.

Source- The "Advocate"
March 8,1984

Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, D.D.,
Archbishop of Newark



1978

Archbishop
Peter Leo Gerety's
first visit
& Confirmation
at Sts. Peter & Paul
Lithuanian R.C. Church
Elizabeth, N.J.

Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi, D.D.,
Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Newark,
Vicar of Union County

1978

Fr.PETER ZEMEIKIS

installed as Pastor

STS.PETER & PAUL CHURCH

Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) R.C. Church was enriched by the services of many devoted priests who are listed below with their years of service to the parishioners.

Rev. Joseph Servetka-- August, 1895 to March, 1896

Rev.Bartholomew Zindzius- April, 1896 to April, 1924

Rev. Edward Budrevicius- March, 1914 to July, 1915

Rev.P. Doniunas- December, 1917 to May, 1919

Rev.J.Jakstys- August, 1919 to January, 1921

Rev.Ignas Kelmelis- January, 1921 to January, 1922

Rev. Edward Budrevicius- February, 1922 to March, 1924

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis-April, 1924 to February, 1953

Rev.Pius Juraitis- February, 1927 to February, 1929

Rev.John Kinta- August, 1931 to March, 1935

Rev.Michael Kemezis- October, 1935 to July, 1939

Rev.John Scharnus- August, 1939 to June, 1941

Rev.Stanley Stonis-August, 1941 to April, 1942

Rev.Dr. John Starkus-August, 1942 to June, 1953

Rev.Anthony Kasper-June, 1946 to June, 1955

Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael Kemezis- June, 1953 to January, 1969

Rev.Thomas Conheeney- June, 1955 to August, 1955

Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas-September, 1953-Present

Rev. Vladas Karalevicius-October, 1955 to September, 1967

Rev.Vincent Svirnelis- June, 1965 to September, 1968

Rev. Albert Matulis-September, 1968 to February, 1969

Rev.Peter Zemeikis- March, 1969- Present

Rev. Anastasius Valencius- July, 1972 to December, 1978

Rev.Ronald Marozewski- Dec.1980 to Present(19...)

Week End Assistant

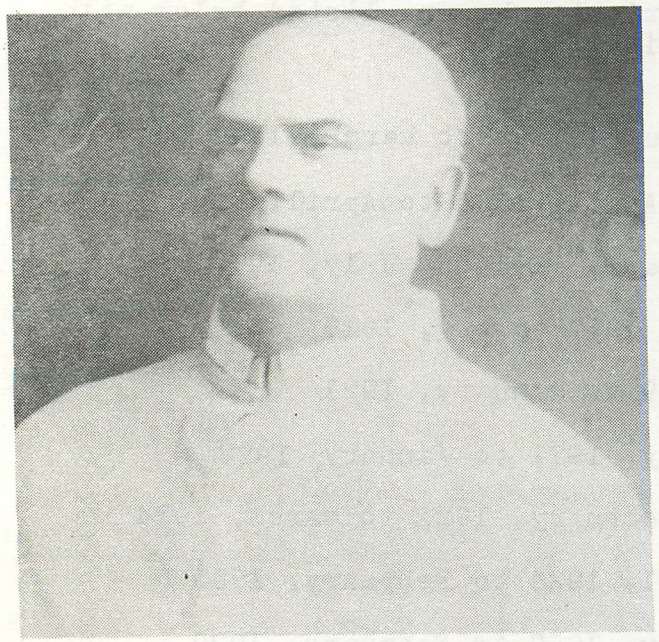
Permanent Diaconate

Deacon Anthony Samalonis- April, 1981-Present(1983)

Deacon Henry Keturwitis- April, 1981- Present(1983)

Source-St.Peter and Paul Church 75th Anniversary

REV.VINCENT SENKUS



Father Vincentas(Senkauskas) SENKUS(1840-1911), superior general of the Marian Order, born in Asmenai, county of Marijampole, Lithuania, on October 6,1840.

Joining the Marians in 1858, he studied at the Marijampole Theological Seminary(1858-62) and at the Warsaw Theological Academy(1862-66).

In 1864 he was ordained priest. After six years of pastoral work at Sasnava, he transferred to Marijampole, where he renovated the church and added two chapels,

In 1871 he became procurator of the Marian monastery. Three years later the Russian government forbade him to exercise these duties, as it was determined to close the Marian monasteries.

All other Marian monasteries had already been closed earlier and were prevented from accepting new candidates.

Father Senkus took over his duties. He worked hard to restore the right for the Marian Order to accept new candidates, but his repeated approaches to the Russian government remained fruitless.

Finally, in 1908, he was the only Marian left alive. Many Catholics found it difficult to comtemplate the extinction of an order which had given the town of Marijampole(q.v.) its name.

Therefore, two professors at The Theological Academy of St. Petersburg, Rev.Jurgis(George)Matulaitis and Franciskus Bucys,secretly joined the Marians in 1909, having previously entered and obtained permission from Rome.

Father Vincentas(Vincent)Senkus died at Marijampole on April 10, 1911. A supporter of Lithuanian organization and publishing activities and a noted homilist, he earned wide respect for his pastoral zeal.

(Bibl.M.Gustaitis,"Kun.Vincentas Senkus," Saltinis,No.16,1911(Seinai)
A Kc.

Source: Encyclopedia Lituanica
Volumn V
Published by Juozas Kapocius
395 W.Broadway,
So.Boston,Mass. 02127

P.S. -St.Casimir is the only cannonized saint of Lithuania. The canonization of Archbishop George Matulaitis is under consideration.

REV.VINCENT(VINCAS) SENKUS

ROOTS

Reverend Father Vincent Senkus had a brother,named Matthew Senkus, whose family had two sons, Vincentas Senkus and Edvardas Senkus, nephews of Father Senkus.

Father Senkus was happy when Vincentas started his schooling. The Reverend Father looked forward to Vincentas, who would one day become a priest and carry on a tradition. However, the young student had other plans and he ended his studies. Father Senkus was disappointed but not until a certain priest by the name of Rev.George Matulaitis would appear eventually and carry on the banner of the Marian Congregation.

Young Vincentas was seen taken into the Russian army. There, he became a leader of his group, because of his athletic abilities and other qualities.

As a true Lithuanian, it did not make sense to him that he should fight the Japanese during the Russian Japanese War.Therefore, he packed his belongingsreturned home to Lithuania and left his beloved country and travelled to England. He found work in the sugar refinery in Liverpool.

Through friends, Vincentas left England and settled in Elizabeth, New Jersey and later, Edvardas settled in Detroit,Michigan.

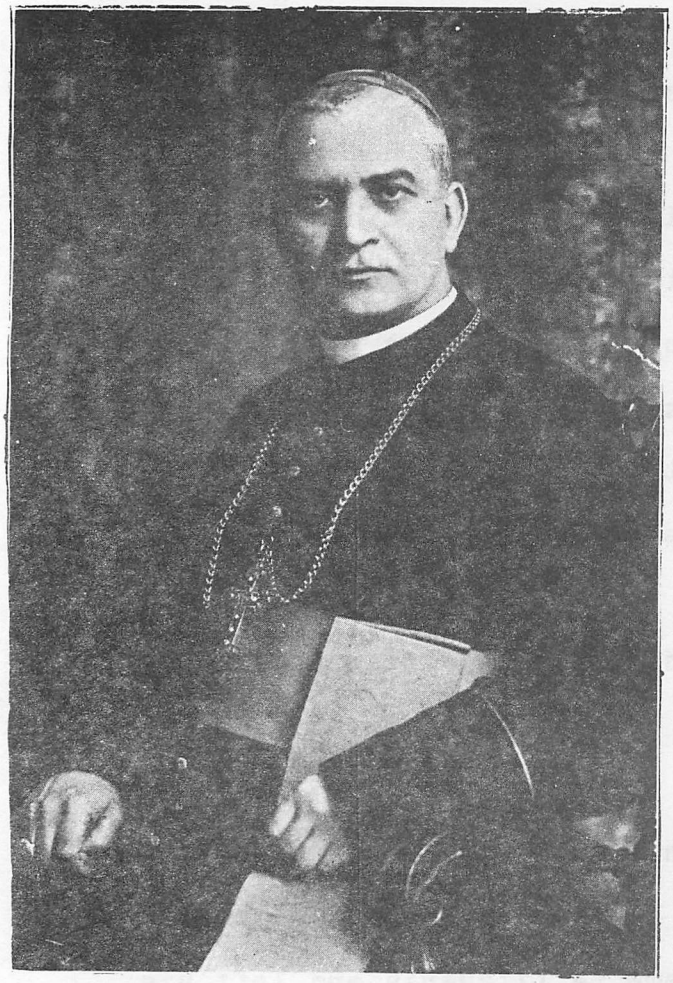
Vincentas Senkus was active in Lithuanian organizations and conducted a retail business in Elizabeth,N.J. Vincentas was married to Elizabeth Budris(of Seduva,Lithuania) in Elizabeth,N.J. Their only son,William, is the compilerwriter ofthis book.

After a prolonged illness, Vincentas Senkus died July 22, 1948 and his wife, Elizabeth,passed away July 12,1961. Both were active in church and community affairs. Mr.& Mrs.Edvard Senkus,both died in Lithuania. Their son, Edward, and his whereabout is unknown.

Sept.1983

THE SERVANT OF GOD

ARCHBISHOP GEORGE MATULAITIS-MATULEVICIUS,MIC



The first "new Marian"

In 1926, Archbishop George Matulevicius came to the United States to make a canonical visitation of the Marian Houses and to participate in the International Eucharistic Congress in Chicago.

During his short stay in the United States he preached and lectured in more than eighty Lithuanian parishes, including Sts.Peter and Paul Church, in Elizabeth, New Jersey

The first novice

Bishop Francis Bucys,MIC

His Excellency, Bishop Francis Bucys, MIC, was Co-renovator of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.

Bishop Bucys also visited the Lithuanian parish of Sts.Peter and Paul in Elizabeth, N.J.

Rev.Joseph Dambrauskas,MIC,ordained 1939 and Rev.Edmund Budrecki,MIC, ordained 1946, are two Marian priests from Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian parish, Elizabeth,N.J.

CONGREGATION OF THE MARIAN FATHERS **ARCHBISHOP GEORGE MATULAITIS**

AMERICAN PROVINCE OF SAINT CASIMIR 6336 SOUTH KILBOURN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60629

We, Knights of Lithuania, learned about Archbishop George Matulaitis from Father Joseph Dambrauskas, MIC, Provincial of the Lithuanian Marian Fathers. The "MIC" means Congregation of Mary Immaculate, the organization of religious priests and brothers that was saved from extinction and renewed by Father George Matulaitis in 1909 by his taking of vows at the feet of the last remaining Lithuanian Marian Father, Vincent Senkus. The Russian Tsars has suppressed all religious Orders and Congregations in the 1800's, so by 1909 there was only one Marian Father left. Father Matulaitis joined the congregation with the express intention of preserving and renewing this congregation that had done so much for Lithuanian Catholics in the past.

No wonder Father Dambrauskas is so zealous and tireless in working for the Beatification of Archbishop George.

We have agreed by National Convention Resolution to help in this project.

Archbishop Matulaitis was an exceptional man: learned, a leader, a planner, strict with himself, but gentle and most considerate of others, a very holy priest and bishop. He died on January 27, 1927 in Kaunas, at the age of 56.

After his death, it dawned upon the many people who knew him in Lithuania, in Rome, in the United States, that here was an exceptional man, who was outstanding, even heroic, in virtue, with a strong faith and an all embracing charity. These are the ingredients of sanctity. Further information and events of his life supported these suspicions. Here was a man who seemed worthy of the honors of the Church, to be recognized and proclaimed a Saint of God.

In 1952, the Marian Fathers began the official process of Beatification. After each step of these rigorous investigations, it became more and more evident that Archbishop George possessed the qualifications of Sainthood. But, as is well known, only the Pope can officially declare a person a Saint, or Blessed.

At the present time, according to Father Jonas Vaisnora, MIC, Postulator of the Process (a "postulator" is the priest-director of this whole effor), all the documentation and testimony of witnesses and even notarized reports of the miracles worked through the prayers of Archbishop Matulaitis have been collected and printed in one huge volume (almost 1,000 pages).

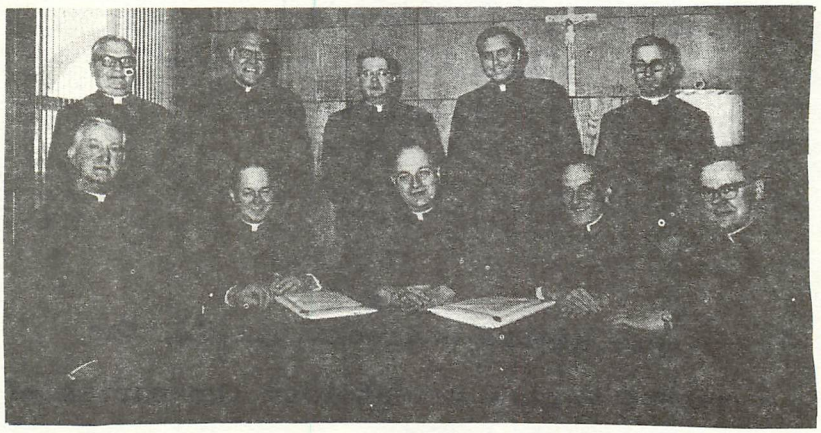
This volume with the Latin title: *Positio super virtutibus* (Statement concerning virtues) must now be formally presented to the Holy Father, together with the prayers and petitions of the Lithuanian people, begging Pope John Paul II, in his wisdom, to honor the saintly Archbishop with the title of Blessed.

Here is where we, Knights of Lithuania, come in.

In the past two or three years we have been gathering signatures, requesting the Holy Father to approve the heroic sanctity of Lithuania's truly outstanding Church leader, Bishop of Vilnius, reorganizer of the Marian Fathers, Founder of the Poor Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who laid the foundations for the dioceses of independent Lithuania.

To date, between five and ten thousand signatures have been collected.

Source-"VYTIS" Knil Magazine January, 1981 Issue-By Rev.Anthony Jurgelaitis,OP,Spiritual Adviser of the Knights of Lithuania Supremce Council



Members of the beatification process in Chicago. Seated left to right: Fr. Provincial J. Dambrauskas, Msgr. E. Smaza, Bishop A. Abramowicz, Msgr. D. Mozeris, and Fr. V. Mikolaitis. Standing: Fr. F. Skrodenis, Fr. J. Kuzinskas, Fr. J. Rolek, Fr. F. Kelpšas, and Fr. A. Nockūnas.

OCTOBER 14, 1981

Rev.Victor Rimselis,Provincial, of the American Province of Saint Casimir, Congregation of the Marian Fathers, Chicago, presented 7,000 signatures collected from Knights of Lithuania members requesting Pope John Paul II to declare Archbishop George Matulaitis a Saint, or Blessed.

Rev.Victor Rimselis
Provincial

Kun. V. Rimšelis, Šv. Kazimiero provincijos marijonų provinciolas, pereitų metų spalio 14 d. audiencijoje popiežiui Jonui Pauliui II įteikė Lietuvos Vyčių sudarytą septynių tūkstančių parašų knygą, prašant, kad Dievo Tarno Arkiv. Jurgio Matulaičio palaimintuoju paskelbimo byla būtų pagreitinta. Laiškai, prašant bylos pagreitinimo, labai daug padėjo. Byla gavo pirmenybę, ir tam reikalui paskirti specialistai teologai vienbalsiai pripažino, kad Arkiv. Jurgio Matulaičio dorybės buvo heroiškos. Tai yra ženklas, kad jo gyvenimas yra vertas šventųjų garbės.

Source-"VYTIS" MAY 1982

The first Marian Priest ordained from the parish of Sts.Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) R.C. Church, Elizabeth,N.J.

1939

The Reverend Joseph Aloysius Dambrauskas

announces his

Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood

to be conferred by

The Most Reverend William D. O'Brien, D. D.

on Sunday, the twenty-second of January

nineteen hundred and thirty-nine

Immaculate Conception Chapel

Hinsdale, Illinois

and cordially invites you to participate in the offering of his

First Solemn Mass

on Sunday, the twenty-ninth of January

at eleven o'clock

Church of Saints Peter and Paul

Elizabeth, New Jersey

1946

Rev.Edmund Budrecki,M.I.C., the second Marian Priest from the parish of Sts.Peter and Paul Parish(Elizabeth,N.J.) was ordained 1946.

The writer(WS) was present at Father Joseph Dambrauskas' First Mass and the Lithuanian Community had an opportunity to be joyous and proud of their first priest ordained from his parish.

FatherDambrauskas' sermon from the pulpit was excellent.

WILL SING MASS FOR FIRST TIME

Fr. Dambrauskas Also to Be Parish Dinner Guest.

Lithuanian Catholics of Elizabeth will have a new experience tomorrow, when one of their own number will celebrate his first mass. The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Ripley place, has been organized for fifty-seven years, and although many honors have come to the parish it has had no representative in the priesthood until now. Rev. Joseph A. Dambrouskas, M. I. C., 25 years of age, holds this distinction for the congregation. Rev. Joseph Simonaitis is pastor of the church.

The young man was ordained last Sunday at Hinsdale, Ill., in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, the officiating prelate being Most Rev. William D. O'Brien, D. D., auxiliary bishop of Chicago. Five other young men were ordained in the same service, the class constituting the first to be graduated from the seminary. He came to Elizabeth Tuesday and is the guest of Father Simonaitis.

It is expected that a large number of the relatives and friends of the new priest will be present tomorrow, when he will officiate at the solemn high mass at 11 o'clock. Local and out-of-town priests will assist in the service. The sermon will be preached by Rev. John Balkunas, of Maspeth, Long Island. The parish choir will sing under direction of Prof. Joseph Zilevicius.

Father Dambrouskas was born in Elizabeth November 15, 1913. His father, Joseph, died ten years ago, and a year later his mother, Amelia Dambrouskas, passed away. A brother, John, and a sister, Mrs. Edward Gardner, live in Linden, and a married brother, Frank, lives in Bayonne. The brothers and sister have been much interested in his studies and have helped him to achieve his goal.

After graduation from the parochial school of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, young Dambrouskas continued his studies with the Marian Fathers in Hinsdale. He entered the novitiate in 1929 and a year later made his profession of vows. He concluded his four-year course at Marionapolis College at Thompson, Conn., in 1934, and returned to Hinsdale Seminary for his theological course.

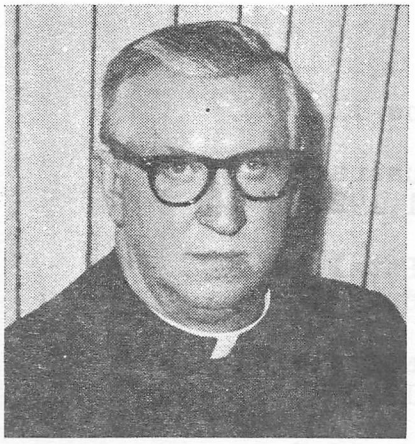
A dinner in honor of the young priest will be held at 2 P. M. tomorrow in St. Joseph's auditorium, the parish hall of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church. Father Simonaitis and parish societies are in charge.

After a short vacation, Father Dambrouskas will return to Hinsdale for postgraduate studies during the remainder of the seminary year, and he will receive his assignment to duty probably in June.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal Jan.28,1939

STS.PETER AND PAUL(LITHUANIAN)R.C.CHURCH
Elizabeth,N.J.

PRIESTS ORDAINED FROM OUR PARISH

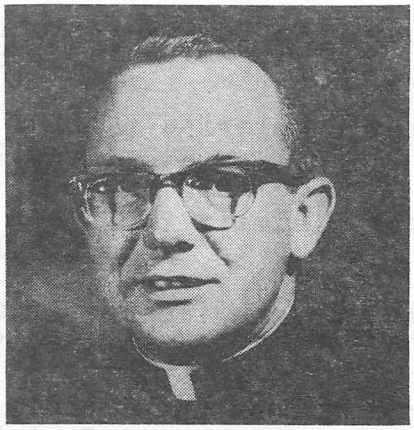


Rev. Joseph Dambrauskas
ordained 1939

Rev. Joseph Wojtala
Ordained 1966

Rev. Edmund Budrecki, MIC
Ordained 1946

Rev. Peter Zemeikis
Ordained 1957



Rev. Alfred Zemeikis
Ordained 1963

Deacon
Anthony
Samalonis

Ordained
1981

Deacon
Henry
Keturwitis

Ordained
1981

Religious from St.Peter and St.Paul Parish

Sisters of St.Francis Convent
Pittsburgh,Pa.

1. Sister Justin Valowicz - June 11,1921

2. Sister M.Rose (Margaret Mikusauskas)
October 31,1924

3. Sister M.Clare (Ella Marie Patalkis)
September 8,1925

4. Sister M.Rosalia (Veronica Norvaisis)
Sept. 29,1925

5. Sister M.Eleanor (Bertha Kuniutis)
January 26,1926

6. Sister M.Salome (Theresa Zalapukas)
June 6,1930

7. Sister M.Pierre (Stella Gaudiesius)
Sept. 6,1931

8. Sister M.Leonard (Albina Peskus)
Sept.14,1934

9. Sister Valerie Ann (Valerie Ann Grigal)
Sept.8,1936

10. Sister M.Dolorita (Albina Butkus)
Jan.20,1941

11. Sister M.Alexis (Mary Ann Murawski)
Sept.8,1959

12. Sister Joanne (Joanne Brazinski)
Sept.8,1965

13. Sister M.Jonathan (Sandra Lunskis)
Sept.8,1968

14. Sister Bonaventure -

Benedictine Sisters-Elizabeth,N.J.

15. Sister Marian,O.S.B. (Veronica Stanulis)

Source- 75th Anniversary Souvenir
Booklet-March 25th,1970

THE HISTORY OF A LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

COMPILED BY WILLIAM A. SENKUS

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

JULIJONAS NIEMCEVICIUS, a Lithuanian, according to Dr. Algirdas Budreckis, historian, (formerly of Elizabeth, N.J. and now residing in Quincy, Massachusetts), was an adjutant and secretary to General Kosciuszko, visited in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, in 1797, with the General. NEMCO Street was named after the above Lithuanian in Elizabeth.

Niemcevicius, Dr. Budreckis relates, was born in the province of Gardinas, Lithuania, was a prominent political figure in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. He married Governor Livington's niece in 1800 and resided in Elizabethtown. Niemcevicius went to France in 1807 and helped Napolean prepare propaganda for use in Lithuania then under the Russians.

In addition, Lithuanians began to settle permanently in 1878, in Elizabeth, N.J., after sailing the Atlantic Ocean for several weeks. They arrived from Ellis Island, New York City and found work in the city's growing industries, one of which was The Singer Mfg. Co. (Sewing machine plant).

St. Patrick's Church, Court St., Elizabeth, celebrated in 1983 the 125 th anniversary of their church. First Pastor was the Rev. Dean Martin Gessner, parishioners then were German and Irish immigrants.

Prior to 1894, Rev. Gessner welcomed the Lithuanian immigrants the use of his church.

Visiting priests, Rev. Joseph Zebrys of Waterbury, Conn., and Rev. Joseph Kaulakis, of Philadelphia, Pa., organizers, heard Easter confessions, celebrated Mass and gave sermons in Lithuanian in St. Patrick's Church.

In 1891, Reverend Father Gessner encouraged the Lithuanians to make plans to build a church of their own.

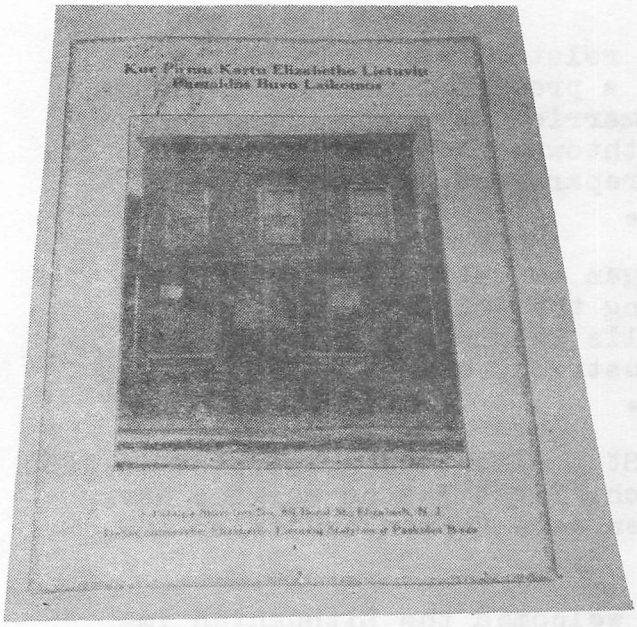
Saint Kazimir Society was organized December 13, 1891, in Elizabeth, N.J. It was the first Lithuanian Society in this city to bring the European new arrivals or immigrants together into a fraternal organization. Membership at one time was over 400 persons.

Soon thereafter, a committee represented the Lithuanian congregation, namely--Simon Mack(Makauskas),who headed the Mack Bank on First St.corner South Park St., was also .. a retail businessman. Mr.Makauskas was father of Elizabeth bank executive, Peter L.Mack; and Dominick Brazinskas, first trustee of the church, and father of Lithuanian mortician, Adolph Brazinski, acquired land on Ripley Place, for the purpose of building a future Lithuanian church.

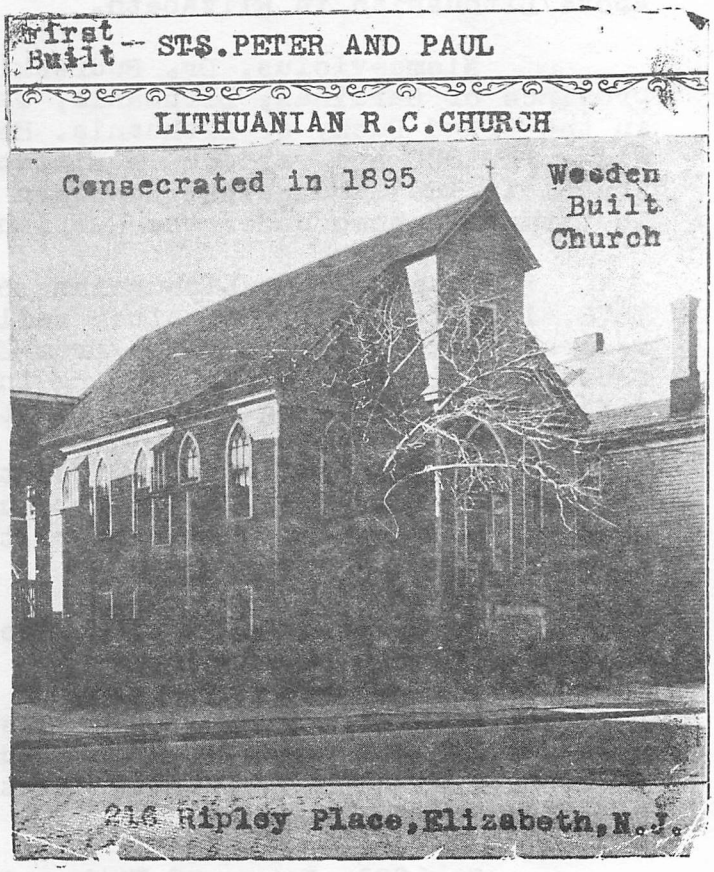
In 1895, the construction of the wooden frame church was completed. A special ceremony was provided and a corner-stone was laid. City officials, clergy, guest and parishioners attended this solemn and happy occasion.

On January 12,1895, Bishop Wiggers presided, blessed the church and consecrated the STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, at 216 Ripley Place, Elizabeth.

Due to illness, Father Servetka asked the Bishop to be relieved of his duties and this request was granted. Fr.Servetka left in March, 1896.



Rev.Joseph Servetka, the First Pastor,of Pittsburgh,Pa., offered Mass at a small store located at 80 Bond St.,Elizabeth,N.J.



Church services were conducted at 216 Ripley Place, Elizabeth,N.J., for 15 years until 1910.

In 1910, a new modern edifice was built across the street to replace the wooden structure.

REV.JOSEPH SERVETKA,THE FIRST PASTOR

Father Joseph Servetka was welcomed into the Newark diocese by Bishop Winold Wigger as of July 30,1895 and was appointed pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) Church inElizabeth,N.J., according to Rev.William Welkevich, a "gifted writer and author" of Norwood, Mass.

In Elizabeth, Father Servetka was struggling with parish beginnings. There he woreout "under strain from toil" as reported by the compiler of history at the Lithuanian Church.

The first Mass was celebrated by Rev.Father Servetka at a commercial place of business(a small store) located at 80 Bond St., Elizabeth,N.J. The new parishioners brought their own chairs from homes for the convenience of sitting and hearing the gospel during the Church services and later they returned home with the same chairs.

Onethe parishioners began singing their traditional hymn, "Fall on Your Knees"-(Pulkim ant Kelin), their inconveniences and sorrows seemed temporarily ended but each parishioner looked forward to better and brighter days ahead.

Bishop Wigger of the Newark diocese was prepared to give Father Servetka another assignment. It was to have been at St.Anne's Lithuanian parish(following his try in Elizabeth) in charge of Jersey City,N.J.,Lithuanians. However, Father Servetka never had an opportunity to serve the Jersey City parish as pasterbecause of some petty misunderstanding of the parishioners.

Rev.Joseph Zebris(Zebrys),Pastor, seized the opportunity to call Rev.Joseph Servetka to assist him at St.Joseph Parish in Waterbury, Conn.

By Palm Sunday of 1896, Father Servetka had arrived and immediately drew notice of local Italians. Knowledgeable in their tongue, Father Servetka brought these southern Europeans flocking to the Lithuanian parish for confessions. Father Servetka stayed at St.Joseph Church only a few months.

Father Servetka later appeared as founding pastor of the Lithuanian Church, blessed Sept.12,1897 at East St.Louis,Illinois. After a few years, Reverend Servetka tried to advance his priestly and humble duties at Brockton,Mass., but only for a while.

It was reported Father Servetka had hopes of returning to Waterbury, Conn. or New Britain, Conn., to serve but the priest unexpectedly died and Rev.Father Servetka was buried in Connecticut.

Source- Rev.William Welkevich
(Valkavicius)
Author of "Lithuanian Pioneer
Priest of New England"

Published by Franciscan Press,
Brooklyn,N.Y.- 1980

STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C.CHURCH

(1898 —1924)
THE SECOND PASTOR

A. A. KUNIGAS BALTRAMIEJUS ŽINDŽIUS

ELIZABETH,N.J.

REV.BARTHOLEMEW ZINDZIUS, THE SECOND PASTOR

Father Bartholemew Zindzius was born in Velionoje, Lithuania, and studied in Rome, Italy.

After graduation, Father Zindzius sailed for the United States and was immediately assigned as professor of religious studies at a Polish Seminery near Detroit,Michigan. Reverend Zindzius also was an assistant pastor of a large Polish Church in Detroit. Father was a linguist and spoke several languages.

Rev.Bartholemew Zindzius, in April, 1896, was appointed pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian)Church, Elizabeth,N.J., by Bishop Wigger, of the Newark diocese, to succeed the parish's first pastor, Rev.Joseph Servetka, formerly of Pittsburgh,Pa.

Reverend Father Zindzius, as pastor, was to administer the Elizabeth Lithuanian parish for 28 years from 1896 to 1924.

Father Zindzius, a pioneer priest, and with a vision, knowledgeable and with expertise, was assisted by the Newark diocese in establishing or building the following new Lithuanian parished.--

1. The Holy Trinity Church in Newark,N.J., in 1902.

2. Saint Michael Church in Bayonne,N.J., in 1908.

3. St.Ann's Church, in Jersey City,N.J., in 1908.

and

4.St.Casimer Church, in Paterson,N.J., in 1912.

Father Zindzius supported and gave aid to Rev. Vitus J. Masnicki,in establishing a new Polish Roman Catholic Church in downtown Elizabeth.

The new church was consecrated and was named St.Adalbert Church in 1906, with Rev.Father Masnicki, as the first pastor.

Sts.Peter and Paul Church attendance was slightly reduced with the Polish people leaving the Lithuanian church. However, Reverend Zindzius and the Lithuanians realized that their present church Sts.Peter and Paul, was too small for their needs. They concerned themselves with plans for building a larger church.

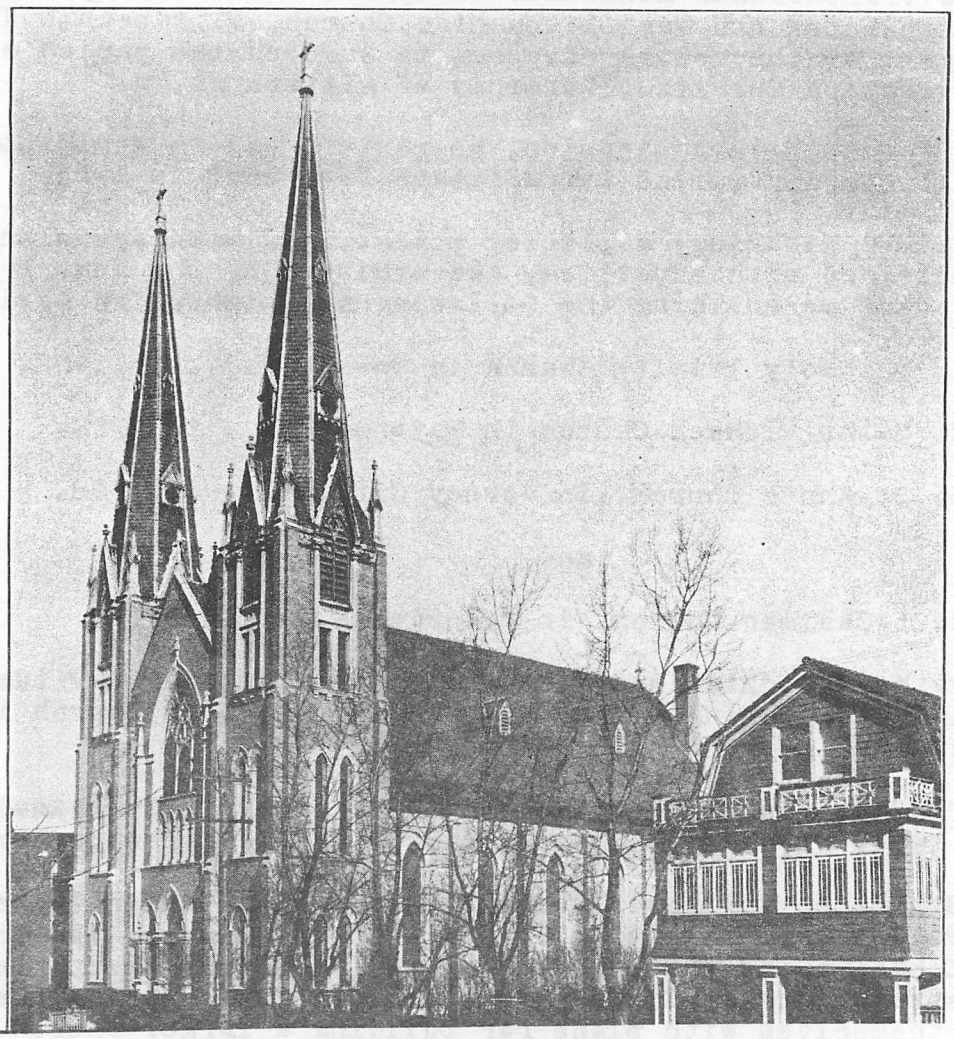
In addition, Rev.Father Zindzius was host to the Lithuanian Alliance of America National Convention of 1900 which was held in Elizabeth,N.J.

Father Zindzius, also blessed food of parishioners at their homes during the religious holidays and the Reverend Zindzius' hobby was being a pigeon fancier, according to the neighbors.

Through Father Zindzius' efforts, the pastor and the Newark diocese built a new yellow brick church for the Lithuanian parishioners. The church was considered one of the most beautiful churches in the metropolitan area of New Jersey and New York.

The New Sts.Peter and Paul Church was consecrated by Bishop Wigger in 1910, with Reverend Zindzius, the pastor, continuing to lead his parishioners.

Father Zindzius' newly built church was his crowning achievement.

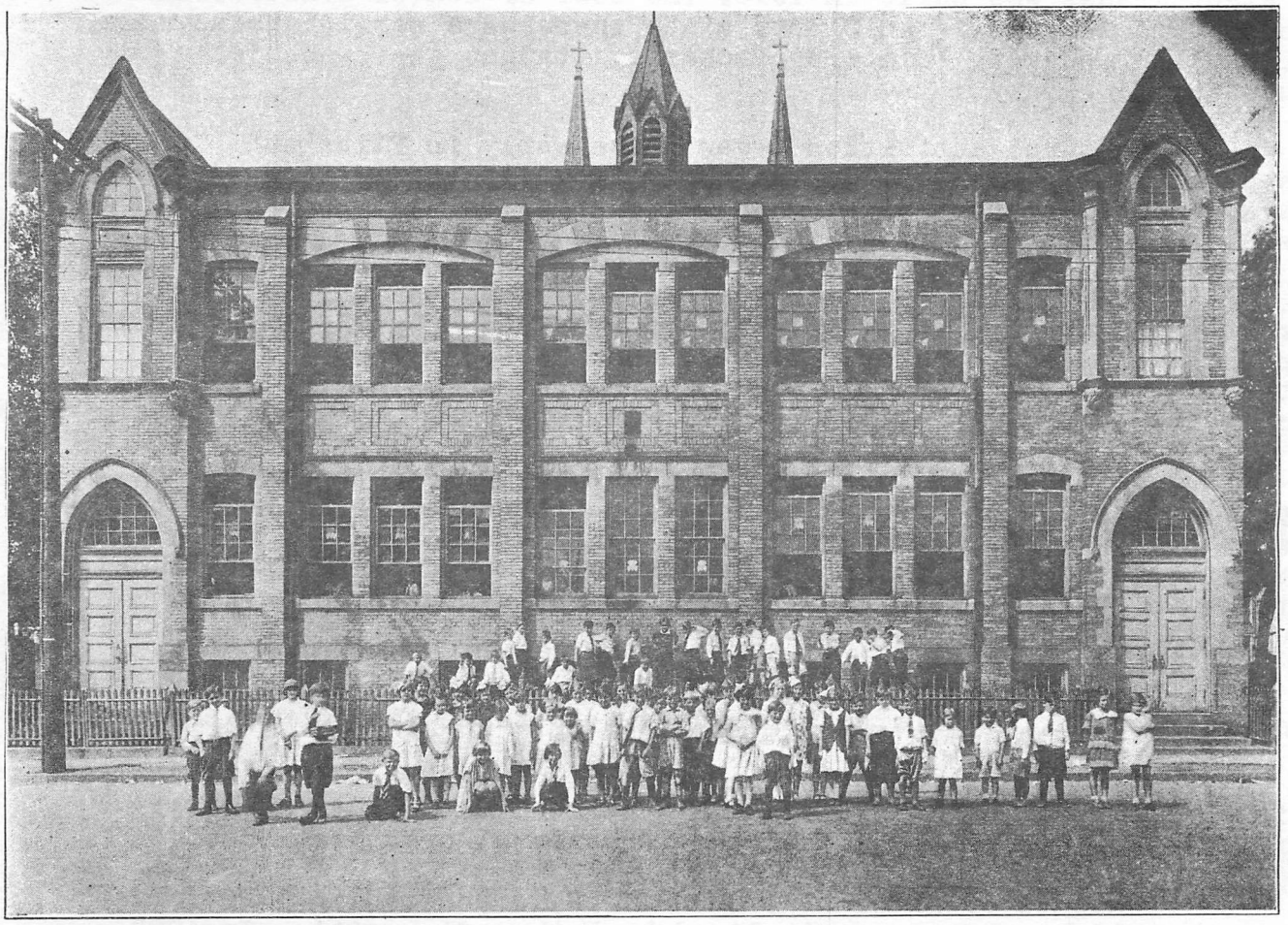


The associate pastors who served the parishioners and assisted Rev.Bartholemew Zindzius, were: Rev.Edward Budrevicius, Rev.P. Doniunas, Rev.J.Jakstys,and Rev.Ignas Kelmelis.(The writer was priviledged to serve as Altar Boy during 1923 to 1926).

Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School, Elizabeth,N.J.

Thanks to Reverend F.R. Zindzius, a brick school of eight grades, Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School , was built in 1913, near the church on Isham Place(street), later the street was renamed for a monsignor-paster of the church.

The school originally was built for the Lithuanian children of parishioners, who were taught by the Sisters of Charity, of Convent Station,N.J., until 1926.



Rev.Father Zindzius, in March, 1924, left for a rest in Lithuania. After a prolonged and lingering illness, Father Zindzius died in 1927, and was buried in his beloved country of Lithuania.

Father Zindzius' brother also passed away in Lithuania and his sister was laid to eternal rest in the family plot in Mt.Olivet Cemetery near Elizabeth-Newark City Line, according to a friend.

WS

Source-Sts.Peter & Paul
40th Anniversary
Souvenir Booklet,1895-1935

The Lithuanians realized that the church was too small for their needs. They concerned themselves with plans for building a larger church, and 10 lots were bought on a site across the street from the existing church.

The new yellow brick church was completed and consecrated in 1910. This Gothic style church, with 1000 seats and beautiful stain glass windows, was considered one of the most beautiful of churches in the Eastern United States. Its building and furnishing cost well over $114,000.

Thanks to the efforts of Reverend Zindzius, a brick school of eight grades was built in 1913. The cost of school construction amounted to $35,000. At first, since there were no Lithuanian nums, the English speaking 'Sisters of Charity' taught the parochial students.

Cultural activities began quite early in Elizabeth. In 1896, the parish choir was formed. The choir from its start arranged concerts, plays, operettas; participated in radio programs; and sponsored song fests.

Due to illness, Father Zindzius, on March 19,1924, left for a rest in Lithuania. In his place, Reverend Joseph Simonaitis was appointed temporary pastor. However, when Reverend Zindzius died in Lithuania, Father Simonaitis was duly recognized as pastor by the Archdiocese.

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis was a very dynamic personality, improving the church grounds; erecting a Lithuanian style cross on the rectory grounds; and purchasing a new church organ. He converted the former wooden church into a parish hall, moved the Sisters(nuns) into newer quarters as a convent; and bought a house beside the church which he converted into a rectory.

Father Simonaitis in 1926, invited the Lithuanian nuns of the Order of St. Francis,Pittsburgh,Pa., to teach the school children.

Reverend Simonaitis was extremely interested in the spiritual and national affairs of his parish. He organized and participated in a number of church and national organizations.

Knights of Lithuania, Council 52,(organized in 1922) as a youth organization, were revitalized by Father Simonaitis. In 1927, the Knights of Lithuania National Convention was held in Elizabeth,N.J., and Father was appointed national spiritual adviser to the organization.

The cultural life of the Lithuanian community was enriched by the arrival of the new church organist Joseph(Juozas) Zilevicius from Lithuania in 1929. Prof. Zilevicius wrote many original musical pieces and compiled a Lithuanian musicological archive in Elizabeth.

In 1943, the exiled Lithuanian president Antanas Smetona visited the Lithuanian colony of Elizabeth. He attended High Mass in Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church and afterwards attended a reception in his honor in Lithuanian Liberty Hall.

A chapter of the American Committee for Aid to Lithuania(BALF) and the Lithuanian Women Citizens' Club were formed in 1944. These organizations conducted drives every year to collect clothing, medical supplies and even money for Lithuanian refugees. The collections for BALF were continued after the War to the present because Lithuania had again fallen under the domination of a foreign power and many Lithuanians had fled their homeland and were in dire need.

The 36th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania was held in Elizabeth,N.J., on September 9-11,1949. Reverend Joseph Simonaitis was honorary Chairman of the convention, with Rev.Anthony Kasper, Associate at Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church, assisting the general convention committee.

The Elizabeth District of the Lithuanian Community,Inc., (Amerikos Lietuviu Bendruomene) was established on April 12,1952.

On February 4,1953, Pastor Joseph Simonaitis died from a respiratory ailment. Reverend Michael G.Kemezis was appointed pastor on June 28, 1953. Rev.Dr. John Starkus was transferred to become pastor of the St.Michael Lithuanian Church in Bayonne and Reverend Joseph(Juozas) Pragulbickas, a new arrival from Europe, took his place as curate.

Rev.Father Kemezis within three short years as pastor repaired and redecorated the Lithuanian church, rectory and parish hall. He also built a playground for the parochial pupils(Between the school and the parish apartment).

Antanas Smetona, President of Lithuania.

Lithuanian Group Plans Ceremony

The Elizabeth Committee for Aid to Lithuania will observe the 36th anniversary of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence at 4 p.m. Sunday with special ceremonies in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second St.

Romalda Dziovalis, committee president, announced today that Rep. Harrison A. Williams Jr. of Plainfield will be the principal speaker. Others slated to talk briefly are Mayor Nicholas S. LaCorte and Rev. Michael G. Kemezis, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's R.C. Church.

A stage show will be presented by pupils of St. Peter and St. Paul's School. The choir of the church will sing under the direction of Joseph Zilevicius.

The observance will get under way at 10:40 a.m. Sunday with a memorial service at the Lithuanian cross in the yard of St. Peter and St. Paul's. Father Kemezis will say special prayers for all Lithuanians.

THE MARIAN-[illegible]

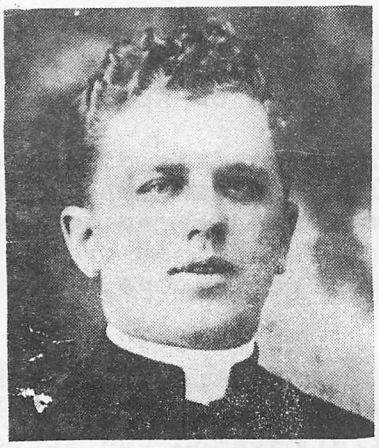
The 36th Annual Convention of the Knights of Lithuania convened Sept. 8-11, 1949, Elizabeth, N. J.; the convention host was council 52 of SS. Peter and Paul parish. Sept. 8 was highlighted by registration, short business sessions, a visit to the Elizabeth Public Library for the Lithuanian Art Exhibit and a Get-together social in the evening. Friday, Sept. 9, featured Mass before 9 AM, business all day and a yacht ride down the Hudson River to view the Palisades and the skyline of New York City. The third day of the convention was all business until evening when all delegates gathered for the semi-formal dance in Lithuanian Liberty Hall with music by Don Gibbons orchestra. The last day of the convention, Sept. 11, the delegates were paraded to Solemn High Mass by a fife and drum corp band; pictures were taken; the last sessions of the convention were convened; a grand banquet was staged at the Essex House, Newark, N. J. The many business sessions produced a number of important resolutions and ideas.

REV.EDWARD BUDREVICIUS.

Father Edward Budrevicius was an assistant pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) Church in Elizabeth,N.J., from March,1914 to July, 1915 and served the parishioners during the pastorate of Rev.Bartholemew Zindzius.

Father Budrevicius was later appointed pastor of Saint Michael Lithuanian Church, Bayonne,N.J., in 1915 and served until 1917. Father Edward also served St.Ann Lithuanian Church in Jersey City,N.J.

Rev.Edward Budrevicius was recalled as an assistant pastor at Sts.Peter and Paul Church(Elizabeth) to assist the ailing pastor, Rev.Zindzius,from February, 1922 to March, 1924. Father Zindzius, on March 19,1924 left for a rest in Lithuania.



Father Budrevicius

Rev.Father Budrevicius, in 1924, was also in failing health, due to a nervous illness. Father was hospitalized in Alexian Brothers Hospital, in Elizabeth.

Father Edward was affectionately called "Father Buddy" by his friends and associates who visited him regularly during his period of convalescence at the hospital. (Probably there were no Nursing Homes available at this time).

Father Buddy-Budrevicius, in appreciation of his friends who visited him, named the visitors club- "The Scintillating Club"- in honor of his visitor members, of which this writer was one of the members.

We brought the priest candy, cigarettes, chewing gum and edible "goodies". The members cheered him with their presence, told stories, gave him good news of the day and made him feel wanted.

After a lingering illness of over 10 years as a patient, Father Edward Budrevicius passed away at the hospital in 1934.

Two other outstanding hospitals in Elizabeth,N.J. are--

SAINT ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

and

ELIZABETH GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
Council 52
Elizabeth,N.J.

The year 1922, was the beginning of the Knights of Lithuania organization in Elizabeth,New Jersey.

Knights of Lithuania members presented plays, held dances in the parish hall of Sts.Peter and Paul,Elizabeth, and picnics in Lithuanian Liberty Park, in Linden,N.J. (Linden K.of L.Council 113, held meetings here in the Liberty Park building.)

In addition, dances and socials were sponsored by the Elizabeth K.of L. Council 52, in Liberty Hall(Elizabeth)and members also attended socials and dances in Lithuanian parish halls in Newark, Bayonne,Kearny,Jersey City and Paterson and also in Maspeth&Great Neck,Long Island;New York City&Brooklyn.

President George Wycosky of Council 52-Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania; (holding hat);with members and guest attending picnic in Linden,N.J.

Active membership at one time consisted of President George Wycosky(Vitkauskas), Ralph Juska and Anthony Visminas,church organists; Joseph Patalkis,youth program director at Pioneer Club, George Pranskeitis, church choir singer, George Schilling, William Pukevich, Joseph Bogdonavich,Dominick Anilonis

Also active were: Estelle Karveius,Estelle Noak,Eva Vitkauskas Kaseta,Mary Grinchis Allen,Anna Degutis, Anne and Mary Trinciune,Suzie Mattis-Matulaitis, Mary and Anna Patrick(Petrikas),Tille Plukis, Marian Van Savage,Nellie and Helen Gutaukis, Vera Cells, Jean Kacinskas Kern, Betty Kacinskas Chesney, Sofia Cibitas VenGraitis, Alice Petrovic, Connie Jurgela,Anna Dalidonis Motecius and Petronelle Kirslis.

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis, pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, revitalized the Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania council.

Through the efforts of Father Simonaitis, the council was incorporated into the national organization of the same name as Council 52.

In June,1927, the 15th National Knights of Lithuania Convention was held in Elizabeth,N.J. Church services were conducted in Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Sessions and banquet were held in the parish hall,Ripley Place. After the convention, delegates and guest sailed on a steamship for Lithuania.They were welcomed enthusiastically by civic, church and state leaders, and the people.

REV.JOSEPH SIMONAITIS,PASTOR
STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C.CHURCH
From 1924 to 1953

KUNIGAS JUOZAS SIMONAITIS
THE THIRD PASTOR

REV. JOSEPH SIMONAITIS, THE THIRD PASTOR

Father Joseph Simonaitis was born in Brooklyn,N.Y., on July 26, 1897. His elementary education began in Sts.Peter and Paul parish school in the Williamsburg Section of Brooklyn.

Young Simonaitis attended the Queen of Angeles Church in Brooklyn. (The church was closed in 1980 because of THE small parishioner attendance. The remaining parishioners were invited to join another nearby Lithuanian Church,after their last Mass was held Dec.28,1980.)

Reverend Joseph Simonaitis completed his religious education at St.Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, and was ordained July 9,1922. His first assignment was at Our Lady of Vilna Church,New York, where his uncle, Rev.Joseph Sestokas, was the pastor.

Rev.Bartholemew Zindzius,Pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, left the parish for Lithuania for a rest. Rev. Edward Budrevicius, the assistant, was hospitalized. It became urgent that a new priest was necessary to administer the church.

Cardinal Hayes of the New York Archdiocese transferred Father Simonaitis to the Newark Diocese and Father was welcomed by Bishop O'conner, who immediately appointed Rev.Joseph Simonaitis, on March 19, 1924, as an assistant pastor at Sts.Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth. Reverend Simonaitis assumed the duties of a pastor.

Father Simonaitis was highly recommended by his peers.He was a speaker and gave lectures. He was also a musician, organist at 12 years of age and played the piano. Father was a director of the Seminary choir and also directed the Church Choir of Sts.Peter and Paul parish, Elizabeth,when Composer Joseph Zilevicius, was the church organist. The church choir's repertoire, consisted of Eight Masses and numbrous Concert pieces and classical Hymns. The writer was a choir member for years.

In 1926,Father Simonaitis invited the Lithuanian Sisters(Nuns), of the Order of St.Francis, Pittsburgh,Pa., to come and teach the Lithuanian language and other subjects to the school children. Later, the language was dropped because of the increased nationality groups enrolling in the school.

Father Simonaitis began to instruct students who graduated Sts. Peter and Paul Grammar School, with high school subjects but only for a short time.

On Isham Place(Renamed Msgr.Nemezis Place),which is next to the school-grounds, the pastor and trustees and with the approval of the parishioners, purchased an apartment house as an investment for the parish.

Father Simonaitis made plans to build a chapel in the basement of the church to save on fuel and other cost but the construction was abandoned because other major repairs were needed and given priority.

Reverend Simonaitis, according to reliable source, introduced the school students to listen to the World Series baseball games via radio; presented "movies" or films during national holidays(no school) and during Christmas week the school pupils received from their pastor, Candy Sticks or hard candy.

A Wayside Cross was blessed November 24,1946.It was erected through the efforts of Reverend Joseph Simonaitis,pastor,and was constructed by Stanley Valatka,next to the rectory. The cross stood from 1946 to 1982, when it succumed to age.

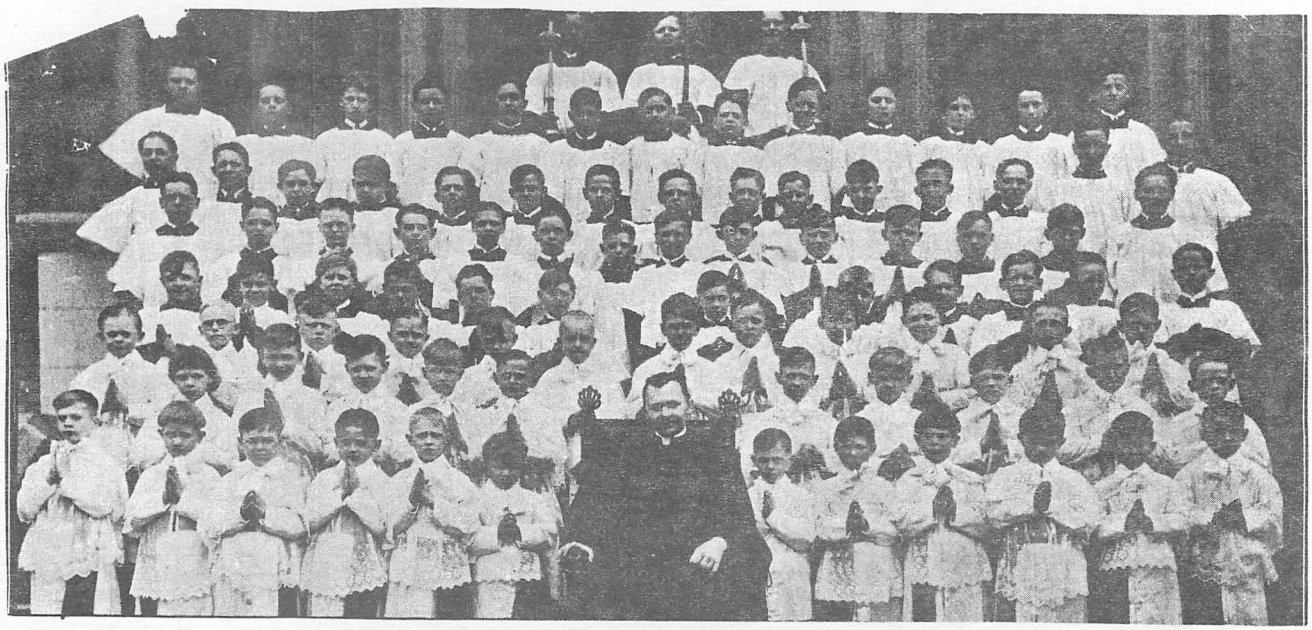
The assistant priests who served the parish under the pasterate of Father Simonaitis were: Rev.Pius Juraitis, Rev.John Kinta; Rev.Michael Kemezis &Rev.John Scharnus,later elevated to monsignor;Rev.Stanley Stonis, Rev.Dr.John Starkus, and Rev.Anthony Kasper.

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis,who was pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church for 29 years, died February 4, 1953, during his visit to his brother,Dr.Simonaitis, in Chicago,Illinois.

After the death of Father Simonaitis, Rev.Michael G.Kemezis, a former assistant in the parish, was appointed pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church on June 28, 1953.

Source-Sts.Peter and Paul Church
40th Anniversary Jubilee
booklet(1895-1935)
and
Sts.Peter and Paul Church
75th Anniversary Booklet
(1895-1970)

Rev. J. Simonaitis and THE ALTAR BOYS OF STS.PETER AND PAUL CHURCH



SHIP SAILED JUNE 14,1927

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

TRIP TO LITHUANIA

Rev.Joseph J.Simonaitis, pastor of STS.PETER AND ST.PAUL'S Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church,Ripley Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey, formerly was spiritual director of the National Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania and an Honorary Member, led that group on an excursion to LITHUANIA, in 1927.

During Spring of 1927, Knights of Lithuania convention delegates and guest met in the parish hall of St.Peter and St.Paul's to discuss present and future activities of the Knights of Lithuania organization. The dates were: June 7-8- and 9,1927.

Delegates and friends attended church services and also sessions in the parish hall which followed. Prominent guest speakers spoke and after various deliberations and timely discussions, adopted resolutions and these were forwarded to respective representatives.

The women members of the parish prepared luncheons and a banquet was held the last day for delegates, guest and for the parishioners.

Soon thereafter, the delegates and friends boarded a ship from the New York Harbar, Hudson River, to Lithuania on the S.S. "LITUANIA" a Norwegian Line Registry. The group embarked and sailed for two weeks, reaching Kaunas, the Capitol of Lithuania.

In addition to Father Joseph Simonaitis, leading the group, others on the trip included- Very Rev.John Navickas,MIC, first Rector at Marianapolis College; Father Navickas brought two young students on the trip who were studying for the priesthood; Ralph Juska, a great basso, Mr.Juska was at one time an organist at St.Peter and St.Paul's Church,(Elizabeth,N.J.). Estelle Karvoius, a clerk; Estelle Noak, a librarian; and others from the Lithuanian parishes in the United States,including K.Viesulas & Adele Rubliauskaite-Gabaliauskiene

The trip to Lithuania brought pleasant memories, according to Estelle Karvoius who accompanied the delegates. She said the ship docked at Klepeida(Memel) and then members embarked for a visit to Kaunas. They were welcomed by President Antanas Smetona at his "White House" residence and had tea with the president.

In Kaunas there was a Lithuanian Youth parade during their stay and members had an opportunity to view the parade from the steps or grandstand.Women delegates received bouquet of flowers from the admirers.

Prof.Juozas Eretas, was President of Pavasarininku Group

The guest attended the Pavasarininku Seimas(Convention) which was a similar Youth Group in Lithuania as is the present Knights of Lithuania organization in America.

The Knights of Lithuania presented a sword as a gift in a ceremony to an army general of Lithuania as an appreciation for the hospitality shown the American-Lithuanian group. The general's name was S.Zukauskas and the presentation was made at a song festival.

RED CARPET ROLLED OUT

Years later when former President Smetona visited the the United States, he was a guest of Father Simonaitis in Elizabeth,N.J.

The President attended the 11 o'clock Solemn High Mass, offered by Father Simonaitis, one Sunday morning in St.Peter and St.Paul's Church. The honored president was seated in the middle isle near the front railing with all honors bestowed to a great and dignified first president of Lithuania.

Father Simonatis was the leader of one of the largest Lithuanian Catholic parishes in New Jersey. Since his arrival as a Pastor, March 19, 1924, there have been many improvements in the church properties. Under his administration a rectory was acquired and a parish auditorium established.

He had authorized a contracting firm to refurbish the two church spires and replaced the worn out crosses atop each steeple.

Since coming to Elizabeth to succeed the late Rev. Bartholomew Zindzius, as pastor, the priest saw St.Peter and St. Paul's School expand to a record enrolment.

Planned Parish Celebration(1895-1935)

In 1935 Father Simonaitis was in the forefront in planning for the parish's — 40th YEAR — celebration. He always was active in religious, civic and patriotic organizations in Elizabeth. He was widely known among Lithuanian-Americans for his efforts in behalf of the independence of Lithuania and other Baltic republics.

He was credited with the founding of many religious and patriotic organizations. He wrote and lectured extensively on the languages, history and customs of Lithuania.

During the 1930s, the "Alumni Club" of Sts.Peter and Paul, held meetings in the parish hall and the club members voted to purchase a new cyclone fence costings $500. which was built around the school grounds.

Father John Kinta, an assistant, introduced tennis playing on the school ground clay court for the benefit of youth of the parish. Rev.John J.Kinta died Jan.4,1984;was buried in Paterson,

Father Simonaitis was an active member of the Roman Catholic Priests' League of America and served several terms as its president. He was spiritual director of the American Lithuanian Organist Alliance. He was an accomplished pianist and for several years directed the church choir.

Born in Brooklyn

Father Simonaitis was born in Brooklyn July 26,1897. He studied at New York's Cathedral College, completing theological studies at St.Thomas Seminary, Denver. He was ordained July 9,1922, and was assigned to Our Lady of Vilna Church, New York. He was transferred to Elizabeth in 1924 as an assistant & assuming the pastorage. Former PastorFather Zindzius died in Lithuania in 1927.

In March, 1949, hundreds of parishioners and city officials honored the priest at a celebration marking completion of twenty-five years as Pastor of Sts.Peter & Paul Church. The priest then expressed hope the next quarter-century would see even greater progress, with Lithuanian Catholics in foreign countries sharing in the blessings.

As a diversion from his pastoral duties, Father Simonaitis sought relaxation in paleography, the study of ancient writings. The priest began delving into this hobby in 1933 when he came upon some old manuscripts. He found the deciphering of old scrolls, many written in Old World monasteries, both educational and challenging.

Source: Elizabeth Daily Journal
February 5,1953

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis, while visiting his only brother in Chicago, Illinois, died February 4,1953.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

EXCURSIONS-- Steamers under the sponsorship of the parish, sailed from the Recreation pier(Front Street) in Elizabethport up the Hudson River to Bear Mountain,N.Y., Rye Beach,N.Y. or on Long Island Sound to Roton Point,Conn. Excursion train rides were very popular. Parishioners brought picnic boxes filled with food delicacies and liquor. Barrel or draught beer and soda was available, brought in especially by the committee truck.

In addition, there were social affairs, such as dances, picnics, theatricalpresentation; school programs, graduation exercises and other wholesome entertainment.

Lithuanian Independence Day, February 16,1918, was observed by parishioners attending Mass with prayer, and rally at Lithuanian Liberty Hall with a prominent speaker extolling the virtues of the Lithuanian Nation; choir members participation in songs under the direction of Prof.Juozas Zilevicius directing; school girl Dorothy Zemeikis(Now Mrs.Bolanowski), reciting poetry or poems under the direction of her mother, Mrs.Bessie Zemeikis. The Bunes Sisters, daughters of Mrs.Justina Bunes, sang selected and appropriate songs for the occasion.

William Senkus
March, 1983

40th Anniversary- 1895 to 1935

STS.PETER AND PAUL (LITHUANIAN) R.C.CHURCH JUBILEE COMMITTEE- 1935

Front Row-- Anthony Klebausas , Dominic Antolionis, Monica Pavalkis, Eva Vaitulionis, Frank Savick(Savickas), Prof.Juozas Zilevicius, Rev.Joseph Simonaitis,Pastor, Rev.John Kinta, Assistant, Paul Kirvelevicius , John Kaleinikas, Isabelle Brazinskas,Marion Gedman

Second Row-- Antoinette Karvojius, Agota ... Mockevicius, Katherine Kaleinikas, Violet(Norbutas)Mekovetz, Isabelle Luksis, Genevieve(Patrick)Motches, Eva.....Misukevicius, Anna Milukis, Marie Kuniutis,August Dresheris.

Third Row-- Vince (Leikauskas)Lakasky, Anthony Pranskietis, Joseph Goss, Joseph Matuza,Jr., Anthony Matunas, Bernard Barkauskas, Simon Staboris, Michael Bunis, Joseph Matuza, Senior; Stanley Gostautas.

Fourth-Row-- Michael Lazickas, Kazimir Baltramaitis, Joseph Zvirblys, Anthony Kizelevich, John (Bagocius)Richards, William (Vincas) Balinskas, Casimir Zabita, Frank Milukas

STS.PETER AND PAUL (LITHUANIAN) R.C.CHURCH CHOIR 1935

Front Row-Anthony Markevich, Anteinette(Bunes)Patrick, Estelle(Bunis) Murefsky, Sally(Pranskietis)Litwin, Helen(Krazauskas)Yudd, Connie Bernotas, Mary(Cibitis)Matunas, Helen(Aklenis)Kizelevich, Edward Brazinski

Second Row-Sister Valerie Ann(Valerie Ann Grigal), Helen(Augustis) Czekay, Isabelle(Bunes)Keturwitis, Tessie(Luksis)Demboski, Prof.Juozas Zilevicius, Rev.Joseph Simonaitis, Rev.John Kinta, Mildred(Luksis) Zalapukes, Sofia(Cibitis)VenGraitis, Jean(Kacinskas)Kern.

Third Row- Anthony Pranskietis, Alpha(Stepanavich)Barry, Alice Paulikas, Elizabeth(Bieksa)York, Tecla(Bunes)Barcas, Betty(Kacinskas)Chesney, Elsie (Martin)Sabalus, Mary(Mileskievicius)Walinski, Julia(Bruzgis)Peskus, Mary Budreckis, Dominic(Patrick)Petrucienis, Joseph Zindzius

Fourth Row- Peter Dilkus, Adam Medway,Sr., Peter Chesney, George Pranskietis, Vincent Badalis, Alexander Berzanskis, William Senkus, Edward Kaleinikas, Simon Venskus, Anthony Matunas.

JUOZAS ŽILEVIČIUS

J. Žilevičius — kompozitorius ir muzikologas, baigęs Petrapilio imperatorišką konservatoriją, buvęs Klaipėdos konservatorijos direktorius. Į JAV atvyko 1929.

Jo žymiųjų kūrinių tarpe yra Vytauto D. kantata, kelios mišios, operetės, eilė giesmių ir dainų, kurių viena, "Pasakyk, mergele", yra ir šios dainų šventės programoje.

A member of the Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania Council 52.

In 1930, a music festival conducted by Composer Juozas Zilevicius, organist at Sts. Peter and Paul Lithuanian R.C. Church(Elizabeth,N.J.), commemorated the 500th Anniversary of King Vytautas; and drew a large audience in Carnegie Hall,New York City

On September 10,1939, at the New York World's Fair LITHUANIAN DAY program, Juozas Zilevicius, led a group of 29 hundred Lithuanian singers from the parishes in the U.S. and Canada.

20th Year Anniversary Banquet-1929 to 1949

In 1949, the parish Church Choir honored Prof.Joseph Zilevicius on his 20th year with the Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church in Elizabeth, N.J.

Juozas Zilevicius,was born in Lithuania,March 16,1891-) was composer and musicologist.

He began his musical training with organist Napoleonas Sasnauskas in Plunge, where he himself was organist from 1908. Studied composition at the conservatory, from which he graduated in 1919.

Composer Zilevicius was actively involved in the establishment of the drama and opera theaters.

He was head of the arts department of the Ministry of Education from 1922-24, He prepared the music and voice curriculums for schools; directed summer courses for music teachers; and organized symphony and chamber music concerts.

Through his initiative, the first Lithuanian song festival took plade in Kaunas in 1924.

In 1929 the Lithuanian government sent the well known and popular musical director, Zilevicius to America to observe the cultural activities of the Lithuanians.

He arrived in this country with his family-wife,Mrs.Victoria Zilevicius and daughter-and has resided here ever since, 1929-61 in Elizabeth,New Jersey, where he was organist of the Lithuanian parish of SS Peter and Paul.

The extensive collection of musical interest he amassed is presently housed at the Jesuit Youth Center in Chicago,Illinois and is known as the Library of Lithuanian Musicology. He has written articles about music education,Lithuanian folk music, choruses and song festivals.

Zilevicius has composed about 400 works: symphonic and chamber music and religious and secular pieces both for solo and chorus.

Sts. Peter & Paul R. C. Church

Elizabeth New Jersey

Juozas Zilevicius

Of his compositions notable are Cantata of Vytautas the Great (1933);St.Joseph's Mass for choir and organ(1930); Missa de Dominica and Cappella(1931);Vespers(1940); and the operetta Lietuvaite(Lithuanian Girl,1932).

His musical phrasing is unforced,colorful, and masterfully controlled, according to a prominent composer K.V. Banaitis.

Source-Encyclopedia Lituanica
VOLUME VI

Published by Juozas Kapocius
395 W.Broadway
So.Boston,Mass. 02127

P.S. Mr.& Mrs. Bartys of Franklin Street, Elizabeth,N.J., donated six(6) volumes of the Enclyclopedia Lituania to the Elizabeth Public Library(South Broad Street) Elizabeth,New Jersey. The Lithuanians of this city are grateful for their generousity.
WAS

TheElizabeth Lithuanians continued their cultural and social activities. The cultural life of the community was enriched by the arrival of the new church organist Joseph(Juozas) Zilevicius from Lithuania in 1929. Composer Zilevicius wrote many original musical pieces and compiled a Lithuanian musicological archive in Elizabeth. Messers. Charles Baltramaitis and Litvinas established sizeable collections of Lithuanian art and literature.

From November, 1945 to September, 1947, a group of young Lithuanian Americans formed the "Lithuanian Theater Guild". These young thespians produced many plays that they themselves had written in Lithuanian. Their profits were donated to the American Committee for Aid to Lithuania and to the Lithuanian American Council(ALT).

The United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America,Inc.(BALF) chapter was formed in 1944. This organization conducted drives every year to collect clothing, medical supplies and even money for Lithuanian refugees.The collections for BALF were continued after the war to the present(including 1983). Father Joseph Pragulbickas is the present director who continues the annual drive for funds.

The year 1949 was an especially memorable one for the Elizabeth Lithuanians. The first Lithuanian refugees fromD.P. camps in Germany began to arrive. The arrival of Lithuanian patriots from Europe(1949-51) was a shot in the arm for the community's cultural life.

Dr.Algirdas M.Budreckis

Source-Dr.Algirdas Martin Budreckis
Term Paper
The University of Rutgers
"The Lithuanian Community in Elizabeth,N.J.,1878-1958"

Saints Peter and Paul(Lithuanian)R.C. Choir

Golden Jubilee

1896-1946 (January 25, 1947)

In Retrospect

In August of 1895 the Lithuanians of Elizabeth,N.J., gathered to attend Mass at 80 Broad Street. Here the faithful intoned and proudly sang their traditional hymn, "Fall on Your Knees" (Pulkim ant Keliu). On January 12th the following year the new church was dedicated and at this time a small group of fairly well trained choristers was organized under the leadership of Mr.Sharidan. This original choir was composed largely of Non-Lithuanians. Mr. Sharidan was succeeded by Agnes Tchorten-Minne. After five years of service she in turn was succeeded by Mr.John Engel, former organist of St.Patrick's Church,Elizabeth.

The first Lithuanian organist and choir master was Mr. Batura. Shortly afterwards hewas replaced by Mr.John Steponavicius, who served in the capacity as organist for a number of years, during which time he reorganied the choir and taught the Mass "ExaltateDeo" by Arens. This selection remains in the choir repertoire even to this day. Under his leadership, Concerts of both religious and secular music were presented. There were some twenty members, among which as outstanding soloists were, Miss Eva Baublis and Mr.Joseph Zalionis.

Under the leadership of Mr.Anthony Radzevicius, Anthony Visminas,Raphael Juska(who has since become a widely known Concert Singer), the choir grew in numbers and expanded its activities. With the arrival of our present pastor, the Reverend Joseph Simonaitis, a marked improvement in the choral rendition of Liturgical music was made. Father Simonaitis, himself an accomplished musician, having been director of the Seminary choir, took over the direction of the group while awaiting the arrival, from Lithuania, of Professor Joseph Zilevicius. On January 22nd,1929, the well-known composer and artist became our organist and choirmaster.

During the 50 years of its existence the choir has presented much in the field of dramatics, operettas, concerts, and social functions. Some years ago it broadcasted from Radio Station WOR. It also took an active part in the Lithuanian Day Festival at the New York World's Fair.

At the present time its repertoire consists of Eight Masses and numerous Concert pieces and classical Hymns. When it first presented the "Cantata" by DuBois its members numbered 125, its record total.

Source- Golden Jubilee Concert & Dance
Souvenir Program
January 25,1947
(In the parish hall, Ripley Place)

Mr.Anthony Pranskietis, the old member of the choir, has a record of 46 years of continuous service. His daughter, Miss Vera Pranskietis, has been an outstanding soloist for a period of 30 years.

Amonst the newer members of the choir are Mrs.Genevieve (Paulauskas)Pocius and Miss Caroline(Miskinis)Farley, both accomplished soloists,Gene Baranauskas-Baran,Feliz Puzinas and Alphonse Zvirblys are the men soloists.

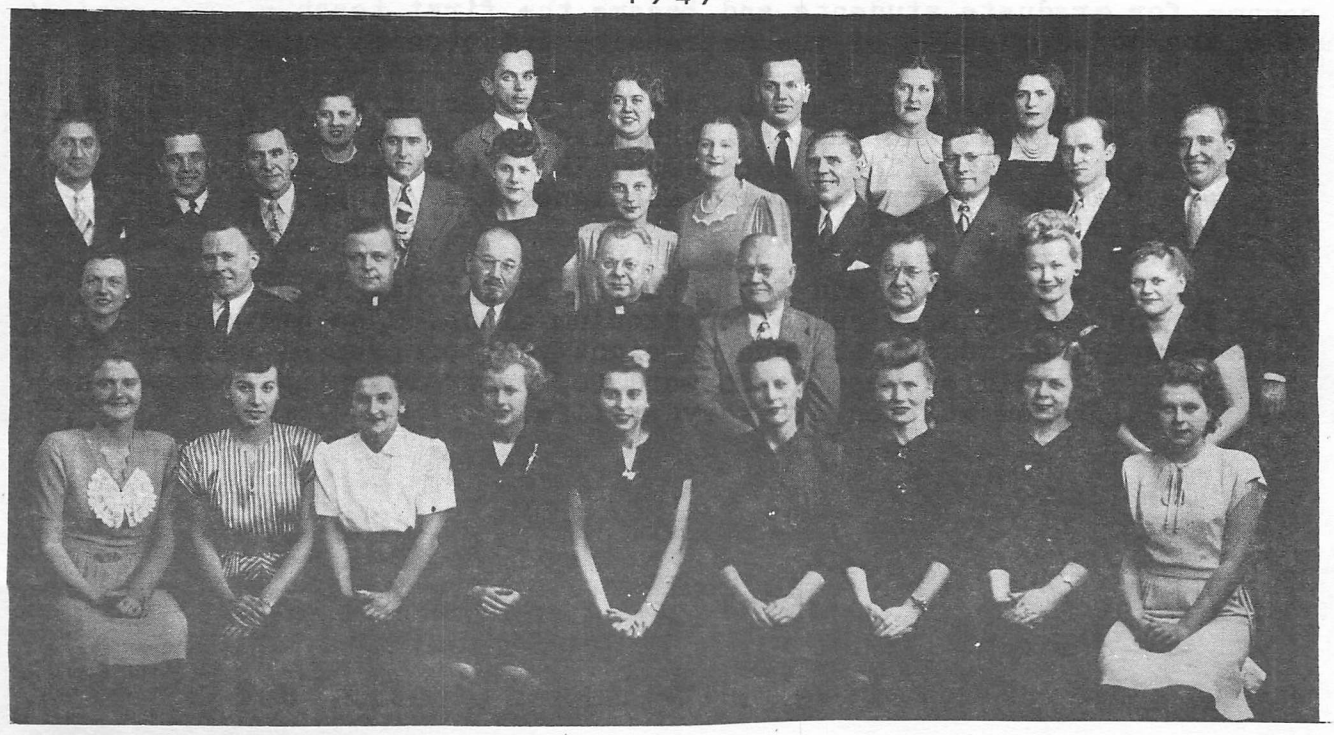
Others with a distinguished record for a good many years are: Mary(Paulauskas) Baranauskas, Isabelle(Bunes) Keturwitis, Simon Venskus, Dominic Petrucionis and Anthony Venskus, who lost his life in World War II.

A message from the Pastor

In the name of the Parish of Sts.Peter and Paul, I wish to express grateful appreciation to the Parish Choir for its continual service from the very beginnings of our Parochial existence to this day, the Golden Jubilee of our Church. There is gratifying satisfaction in the thought of having contributed to such an extent to the Glory and Honor rendered to God in active participation of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass, the greatest spiritual prayer mankind can ever hope to render to God. Today the Parish Choir has reached an eminence in our city and Archdiocese that few can hope to attain. With my congratulations goes my fervent wish that the Choir maintain, expand and progress in musical excellence, the better to serve God and to obtain His blessings for their efforts.

REV. JOSEPH SIMONAITIS
Pastor

STS. PETER AND PAUL'S R. C. CHURCH CHOIR
—1947—



Saints Peter and Paul Lithuanian School(Grammar School)

Golden Anniversary

1914-1964(Saturday,October 17,1964)

School History

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL SCHHOL, of Isham Place,Elizabeth, N.J.,renamed Monsignor Kemezis Place, was dedicated by His Excellency Bishop John J.O'Connor, D.D. in October,1913.

Rev.Bartholomew Zindzius,pastor, whose untiring efforts and sacrifice had made this dream come true, was happy when the Sisters of Charity- - - of - - - - Convent Station,N.J.,responded and took over the task of teaching the children. Pastor as well as parishioners were jubilant in having a grammar school of their own where their children might acquire an early education.

The first Sisters assigned to teach were Sister Mary Elise, Sister Agnes Irene, Sister Alice Joseph and Sister M. Dolorosa, the principal. The Sisters lived at St.Patrick's Convent temporary on Court Street for two years and then moved to their own convent on Ripley Place, after the conversion of the old wooden church, now the parish hall.

In 1922, Sister M. Dominic succeeded Sister M. Dolorosa, as principal. There was an enrollment of about 200 pupils.

Sister Gertrude Anita, Sister Rose Beatrice,Sister Mary Joan, Sister Mary Charles and Sister Anna Joseph joined the staff. With the growth of the school enrollment, more Nuns were needed so ---- Rev.Joseph Simonaits, the pastor, invited the Lithuanian Franciscan Sisters of Pittsburgh,Pa., to come to Elizabeth to teach and in September, 1926, a new group of Sisters arrived.

At one time Rev.Father Simonaitis started a high school COURSE for graduate students and became the first teacher. The project was abandoned because of the depression and economic difficulties.

Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael G.Kemezis, former curate, was appointed pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul's Lithuanian Church on June 27, 1953. For his labors,His Holiness Pope John XXlll elevated the pastor to the rank of domestic prelate. The Monsignor also taught at Seton Hall University.

The Sts.Peter and Paul student body today is no longer able to succeed by mere school curriculum alone. Gone are those successes reaped solely through an eight year program of books and courses. The children must go forward to higher learning to meet the ever growning competition of everyday life.

The education obtained goes far in giving youth that essential quality of future confidence and ambition- a well moulded personality, a broad and understanding outlook, and a strong character.

We have graduates who have become priests, sisters, educators, doctors, lawyers, musicians, business people. We also have skilled and non-skilledworkers, mothers and fathers and others, all Alumni of Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School.

Six Nuns from the parish and three Priests from the parish are numbered among the Alumni.

The graduates of the school owe their success in life to the honest labors and teachings of the Sisters of Charity and the Franciscan Sisters. We should all be thankful to God for the wonderful cooperation we received from both our Pastors and Sisters.

William A.Senkus
(1964)

The Program

The invocation was given by Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael Kemezis

Master of ceremonies was Mr.Charles Oskutis

Speakers were-- Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael Kemezis, Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, Rev.Vladas Karalevicius

Guest speaker was- Rev.Alfred Zemeikis

- Pastors of the Parish were -

Rev. Joseph Servetka

Rev.Bartholomew Zindzius

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis

Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael Kemezis

Source- Saints Peter and Paul Parochial Grammar School
Golden Anniversary Dinner-Dance at Lithuanian Liberty Hall
Souvenir Program
October 17,1964

The Elizabeth Community of Lithuanians & Lithuanian-Americans often visited the NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR AT LITHUANIA'S PAVILION 1939

LITHUANIA'S PAVILION in 1939

Photograph by C. Matuzas

THE LITHUANIAN PAVILION AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1939

By accepting to participate in the New York World's Fair, Lithuania desired first of all to express her deep gratitude to the United States, which has been a haven of refuge to over a million Lithuanians in the last hundred years. Secondly, she wished to acquaint Lithuanian Americans, who have never visited the mother country, with the work that she has accomplished during the first twenty-one years of her recovered independence.

The facade of the Lithuanian Pavilion is decorated with the Lithuanian coat-of-arms, a white knight on horseback, which dates back to the early thirteenth century (executed by A. Andriušis). The statue (by J. Mikėnas) in front of the pavilion represents present-day Lithuania: a country girl returning from the fields with a sheaf of rye in one hand and a dove in the other. It symbolizes contentment achieved through labor.

The pavilion itself is divided into five sections:

1. *The Hall of Honor.* This hall is decorated with seven murals depicting highlights in Lithuanian history. (1) The coronation of the first Lithuanian King, Mindaugas, in 1253 (by P. Kalpokas). (2) The Grand Duke Algirdas strikes his sword on the gates of Moscow, in the year 1369 (by S. Ušinskis). (3) The Grand Duke Vytautas orders the prisoners to be released after the great battle of Tannenberg in 1410, which broke the power of the Teutonic Knights, the greatest military organization of the Middle Ages (by A. Galdikas). (4) A scene in the castle of the Grand Duke Vytautas at Lutsk in 1429. Vytautas, one of the greatest statesmen and warriors of the fifteenth century, to whom the Bohemians had also offered their crown, had so impressed the Pope of that time and the Emperor Sigismund (of the Holy Roman Empire) that they proposed that Vytautas be crowned King instead of Grand Duke of Lithuania, much against the will of his cousin, Jogaila, King of Poland. At this time Vytautas had gathered together at Lutsk a great many of the European rulers, in order to find a peaceful solution for the difficulties of the Europe of that day. In fact it was an early attempt at forming a League of Nations (by S. Ušinskis). (5) The foundation of the Academy (later University) of Vilna, capital of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy in 1578 (by Adomas Smetona). (6) The French Emperor, Napoleon, forms the provisional government of Lithuania, to which he had promised independence on July 1, 1812 (by P. Kalpokas). The last mural shows the re-birth of Lithuania, the proclamation of independence at Vilna, February 16, 1918 (by P. Kalpokas).

This hall also has five maps depicting Lithuania at various periods (by A. Kairys). In the place of honor there is a statue of the greatest ruler of Lithuania, Vytautas the Great (by V. Kašuba).

2. *Hall of Culture.* The progress of Lithuanian education and culture during the last twenty-one years is displayed in this hall. The two most important exhibits are a large mural (by Professor S. Ušinskis and his pupils), showing the progress of education and a wood carving (by K. Karalius), after the bronze original by the sculptor P. Rimša, called "The Lithuanian School," which shows a peasant mother at her wheel, teaching her child to read. This was the only school Lithuania had during the years 1864 to 1904, when the Russians had forbidden all printing in Lithuania and had closed all the Lithuanian schools. There is a display of fine books and also showcases showing handicrafts by school children under 14 years of age.

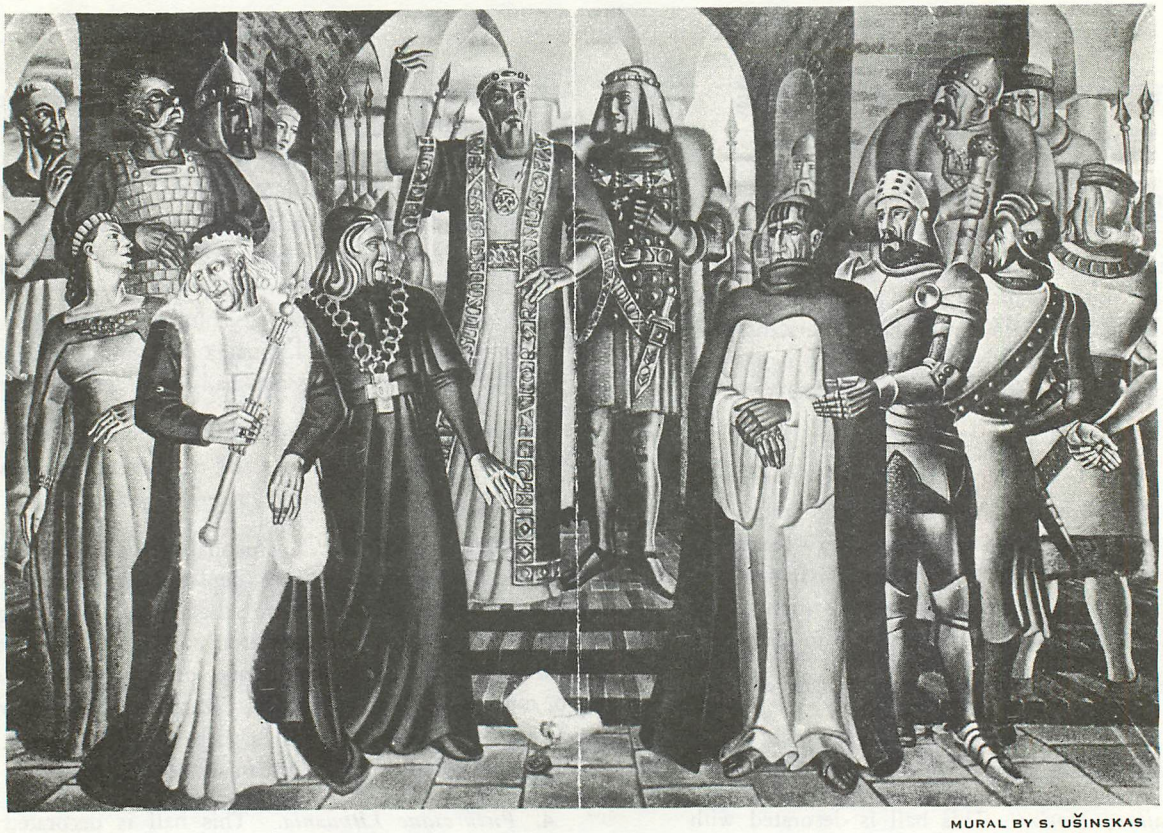
3. *Hall of Folk Art.* This hall has a showcase of XVIII century wood carvings depicting saints made by peasant sculptors, or as they are called in Lithuanian "god-makers." It also has wrought iron crosses, XVIII century wood engravings, photographs of typical wayside shrines, two musical instruments called "kanklės," three dower chests and is dominated by a large painting (by Mme. O. Kalpokienė) depicting a Lithuanian peasant bride.

4. *Picturesque Lithuania.* This hall is decorated by photographic-murals (by V. Augustinas and J. Naruševičius) showing Lithuanian landscapes, folk types, sport, etc. At one end of this hall and between it and the Hall of Culture there are large showcases of ceramics. In the center there is a showcase with selections of Lithuanian books printed in the last five years. A showcase over four yards long in one wall depicts a Lithuanian farmstead (home of the artist, Mrs. K. Petrikaitė-Tulienė who made the whole exhibit) with a typical cross, garden, trees, etc., and with twenty ethnographical dolls copied from life (friends and neighbors of the artist).

5. The whole second floor of the pavilion is devoted to Agriculture, Commerce and Industry. It is dominated by a bust of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Antanas Smetona.

Some of the most interesting exhibits in this section are: a showcase devoted to handicrafts by members of the "Young Farmers" Clubs; amber, the famous "northern gold" of Lithuania; hand-woven woolen and linen textiles, pottery and wood-carvings. This section has large diagrams showing the growth of agriculture, commerce and industry in Lithuania, and has an interesting export section.

Elizabeth Lithuanian Girls in their native costume at the New York World's Fair, Sept. 10, 1939



MURAL BY S. UŠINSKAS

ONE OF THE SEVEN MURALS IN THE PAVILION

In 1429 Grand Duke Vytautas invited the rulers of central and eastern Europe to Lutsk, for a peace conference. The emperor Sigismund proposed that Vytautas be crowned King of Lithuania.

LITHUANIAN DAY
AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR
SEPTEMBER 10, 1939

FOLK DANCING • FOLK SONGS

Many Special Entertainment Features

Mother — The Lithuanian School

Typical Cottage and Wayside Shrine

Published by

THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR
LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMITTEE

ance
Yesterday at
9:00 P.M.
229,308
To Date:
23,122,235

TODAY at the FAIR

OFFICIAL DAILY PROGRAM AND WORLD'S FAIR

232 Published Every Day * NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1939 * ... Sunday, Sept. 10, 1939

25,000 Lithuanians Celebrate

United Chorus Of 2,900 Voices Will Sing

Liths Coming From All Parts of U. S. To Participate

Fifty-nine ch[illegible] bands and folk dancing gro[illegible]uses and a combined Lithuanian chorus of 2,900 voices will participate in the program to be staged in the Court of Peace as the highspot of the day.

Special trains have been chartered from points as distant as Chicago, and there will be excursion trains from many Eastern cities. Other groups are coming from the state of Washington and Ohio. More than 100 buses are said to have been engaged in Connecticut. From Waterbury alone 5,000 Lithuanians have indicated they will be at the Fair today.

Heading the distinguished Lithuanians today will be Povilas Zadeikas, Minister at Washington. Following his arrival at 10:45 A.M., he will be escorted to Perylon Hall to sign the Fair's Distinguished Guest Register, after which he will review the troops from Camp George Washington and make a courtesy call on Commissioner Edward J. Flynn at the Federal Building. With his official party he will be entertained at luncheon in Perylon Hall at 12:30 P.M.

Present for the Fete Day are three distinguished citizens of the homeland: Dr. Kaszys Pakastos, Dr. Jonas Slupas and Dr. Juozos Kaskelis. Other Lithuanians who expected to participate in today's celebration sailed for home Friday when they learned that uncertain shipping schedules made it uncertain when they could obtain passage on another boat.

Opening the program in the Court of Peace at 2 o'clock this afternoon will be the singing of the American and Lithuanian national anthems, after which L. Sasnauskas will speak a prayer for the fatherland. Speakers will be Mr. Zadeikas; Jonas Budrys, Lithuanian Commissioner General to the Fair and Consul General; Jouzos Laucka, director of the Lithuanian Pavilion and Grover A. Whalen, president of the Fair corporation.

Directing the combined Lithuanian chorus of 2,900 voices in songs of the fatherland will be Juozos Zilevicius, former professor at the Lithuanian Conservatory. National folk dances will be performed by groups from many American cities.

Prof. J. Zilevicius is from Elizabeth, N.J.

Lithuanian History Is Traced in Exhibit

Throughout the day Lithuanians will be thronging the Lithuanian Pavilion, thus achieving the two-fold purpose of that Government in participating in the Fair.

First of all, according to Juozos Laucka, director of the building, Lithuanian wished to express her gratitude to the United States which has been a haven of refuge to over a million Lithuanians in the last hundred years and which was one of the first nations to recognize the independent Lithuania.

Secondly, she wished to acquaint Lithuanian Americans, who have never visited the mother country, with the work she has accomplished during the 21 years of her recovered independence.

Decorating the facade of the Pavilion is the Lithuanian coat of arms, a white knight on horseback, which dates back to the early 13th century. In the Hall of Honor seven murals depict highlights of Lithuanian history from the coronation of the first Lithuanian king, Mindaugas, in 1523, through the years when Lithuania no longer existed as a nation to its rebirth in 1918 by the proclamation of independence at Vilnius, Feb. 16, 1918.

PROGRAM OF THE LITHUANIA NATIONAL DAY AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR, SEPTEMBER 10, 1939

10:15 a.m. Three cars and World's Fair officials will call for the Minister Povilas Zadeikis ,and party of 10, at their hotel and bring them to the Fair.
10:45 a.m. Arrive at World's Fair Boulevard Gate. No salute to guns.
10:50 a.m. Arrive Perylon Hall, to sign distinguished guest register.
11:00 a.m. Leave Perylon Hall for Court of Peace.
11:10 a.m. Arrive at Court of Peace for Review of Troops.
11:30 a.m. Review of Troops ends. Go to Federal Building to call on Commissioner.
11:45 a.m. Official party to pay call on U. S. Commissioner. Official call ends.
12:00 noon Parade begins to assemble at George Washington Statue to proceed past Lithuanian Pavilion and to Court of Peace where the Lithuanian Minister will be greeted. Participating in the parade will be members of Lithuanian Societies. If time permits, the Minister and official party will review this portion of the parade. The parade terminates at the Court of Peace, where the official ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m. Luncheon at Perylon Hall.
2:00 p.m. Program at Court of Peace:
Introductory address by Juozas Laucka, Chairman of the Lithuanian Day Committee, also Master of Ceremonies for the day.
2:03 p.m. American and Lithuanian national anthems.
2:06 p.m. Prayer for our Fatherland—by Sasnauskas.
2:09 p.m. Addresses:
Grover Whalen, President New York World's Fair
Edward J. Flynn, U. S. Commissioner General
Fiorello La Guardia, Mayor of the City of New York
2:25 p.m. Songs by United Chorus:
Song of Youth—J. Naujalis
On my Father's Estate—J. Simkus
I Will Build a Bridge—J. Zilevicius
I've Sown a Green Rue—J. Neimantas
2:50 p.m. Address by Jonas Budrys, Commissioner General of Lithuania to the New York World's Fair.
3:00 p.m. Address by Povilas Zadeikis, Minister of Lithuania at Washington.
3:10 p.m. National Folk Dances:
Kepurine
Sukcius
Mikita
3:25 p.m. Songs by United Chorus:
In the Green Forest—J. Gauba
In the Beautiful Meadow—A. Pocius
This Night and Thru the Night—S. Simkus
Song of Freedom—J. Zilevicius
3:50 p.m. National Folk Dances:
Jonkelis
Blezdingele
Kalvelis
Kubilas
4:05 p.m. Songs by United Chorus:
My Beau—A. Aleksis
I've Not Come Here to Drink—J. Gruodis
Planting Hemp—M. Petrauskas
Lithuanians We Are Born—S. Simkus
4:25 p.m. Closing address, by Juozas Laucka.
9:00 p.m. Lagoon of Nations, Symphony of Fountain, Flame and Fireworks.
Symbolic display of Spirit of Washington, representing flag colors of U. S. A. and the Republic of Lithuania and national anthems of America and Lithuania.

PROGRAM RESUME

1. a) Amerikos Himnas
The Star Spangled Banner
b) Lietuvos Himnas.....Dr. V. Kudirka
Lithuanian Anthem
c) Malda Uz Tevyne.....Orig. Composer C. Sasnauskas
Prayer for our Fatherland, asking Almighty God for protection of our beloved country and our people.
d) Pasisejau Zalia Ruta.....Folk Song by J. Neimantas
2. a) Jaunimo Giesme.....Orig. Composer J. Naujalis
(A Song of Youth). Young Girls and Boys depicting into a song their ideals of their homeland.
b) Ant Tevelio Dvaro.....S. Simkus
(On My Father's Estate). It was so calm and peaceful here, and now this infinite sadness pervades my heart as I am going to war and perhaps never to return. Youth bids farewell to his loved one.
c) Statysiu Tiltaiti.....Folk Song arranged by J. Zilevicius, L.M.
(I Will Build a Bridge). I will build a bridge over Nemunas River and will frequently visit my beloved one and tell her of my love for her and my inspiration to fight for my fatherland.
(I've Sown a Green Rue). A folk wedding song in dialogue form in which the two betrothed pledge their love to each other.
3. a) Zaliojoje Girelej.....Folk Song by J. Gaubas
(In the Green Forest). A description of harvesting of hay.
b) Palankej, Palankej.....Folk Song by A. Pocius
(In the Beautiful Meadow). How beautifully the sun is rising while my maiden is harvesting amidst this beautiful scenery. I will now tell her of my visit of her father and confessing of my love.
c) Sia Naktele.....Folk Song by S. Simkus
(This Night and Thru the Night). A wedding festival song.
d) Pabuskim (Laisves Daina).....Orig. Composed by J. Zilevicius, L.M.
(Song of Freedom). In which there is an attempt to inspire the bravery and courage of the young men to go and give up their lives for their dear Fatherland.
4. a) Berneli Mano.....A. Aleksis
(Our Beau). Young lover is berated for alluring our pretty maidens—ah! she is heavenly! Could not resist stealing a kiss.
b) As Negert Atejau.....Folk Song by J. Gruodis
(I've Not Come Here to Drink). I have not come here to drink? I've come here to visit my loved ones! At this festive time, we should be gay and happy. Here's my flask. . .
c) Pasejau Kanape.....Folk Song by M. Petrauskas
(PlantingHemp). A history of the life of hemp from a lowly seed to a finished product.
d) Lietuviais Esame Mes Gime.....Orig. Composed by S. Simkus
(We're Natives of Lithuania). The Creed of Lithuanian youth.

UNITED LITHUANIAN RELIEF FUND OF AMERICA, INC.

MEMBER AGENCY
OF THE
NATIONAL WAR FUND

CHAPTER No. 37
166 Park Place
Address
Elizabeth, N. J. 1945
City and State

LITHUANIANS PLAN CLOTHING DRIVE Sept. 1945

An intensive drifefor clothing for needy Lithuanian war victims, to be conducted on a city-wide scale all next week, was launched last night at an informal dinner held at the Winfield Scott Hotel under auspices of Chapter 37, United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America.

The desperate plight of innumerable Lithuanians who are facing the winter barefoot and in tatters was emphasized by Casimir V.Baltramaitis, director of public relations at National headquarters of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America in New York City.

He pointed out that hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians are scattered through Western Europe, having been forced at bayonet point to leave their homes and possessions, and that many have suffered in concentration camps and as slave labors.

Elizabeth Mayor James T.Kirk reviewed the civic activities of the Lithuanians of Elizabeth, recalling that the citizens of Lithuanian descent have never failed in humanitarian or patriotic endeavors. He said that their present appeal deserves the attention and support of all citizens, and stated that various civic leaders have assured their aid in the coming drive.

The mayor stredsed particularly the assistance promised by the Jewish clergy, Rabbi Raphael H. Melamed,Ph.D., and Rabbi Pinchas M. Teitz, who said that they would call the attention of their congregations to the necessity of helping the many Lithuanians of the Jewish race. The Mayor also stated that he would issue a proclamation to enlist the aid of all Elizabethans in support of the American clothing drive for Lithuanian war victims.

Rev.Joseph J.Simonaitis,Pastor of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian Church, described the sufferings of Lithuanian refugees and displaced persons, and declared that only through personal appeals and canvassing can the message of their need be brought to the people of Elizabeth in order that immediate help may be obtained.

Police Judge John L.McGuire acted as toastmaster. Prof. Joseph Zilevicius,president of Chapter 37,United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, said that the clothing drive here is part of a Nation-wide campaign, and that the response here and elsewhere would show whether thousands now living would survive the winter.

At the conclusion of the dinner, a discussion of plans for the drive resulted ina decision to use a sound truck to canvass the various streets of the city on a house-to-house basis.

Clothing may be taken to headquarters of St.Peter and St.Paul's Parish Hall, 216 Ripley Place. Those wishing to have the clothing picked up by truck should call the Sisters of St.Francis convent, Ripley Place, or Mrs.Mary Martin, 157 Court Street.

Warm clothing and shoes for men, women and children, as well as bed linen and towels, are urgently needed.

Canvassing of the city streets by a sound truck brought a good response of 3,000 lbs. of clothing for overseas shipment to authorized relief agencies, was announced by the United Lithuanian Relif Fund of America. It accorded special commendation to the St.Anne Society,the Holy Rosary Society and the Third Order of Saint Francis for their house-to-house canvass and sorting the clothes.

A group of women volunteers at the hall was kept busy sorting and packing the clothing, bedding and shoes. Especially active inthis work were Mrs.Justina C.Bunes, Mrs. Romalda Dziovalis, Mrs.Victoria Zilevicius, Mrs.Veronica Budrecki, Mrs.Isabelle (Bunes)Keturwitis and Mrs. Casimir Baltramaitis.

Prof.Joseph Zilevicius, chairman of the city-wide campaign, paid trubute to Mrs.Mary Martin, who served as liaison officerand to all the others who worked on the committeeand assisted with the drive in any way. Special thanks were givento Mr.Anthony Papalis for delivering the clothings to a Government Warehouse in Brooklyn,N.Y., for processing and baling before the shipment was made for overseas.

The following presidents were cooperating in this special clothing drive and assisting the committee were:

Rev.Joseph Simonaits,president of Chapter No.24; Prof.Joseph Zilevicius, Chapter No.37; Mrs.Agnes Degutis, Chapter No.45; Mrs.Josephine Norbutas,Chapter No. 46; Mrs.Monica Pavalkis, Chapter No.47; Mrs.Stephanie Lauronas,Chapter No. 79; Mrs. Antanina(Barcius)Barcas, Chapter No. 80; and Mrs.Ursula Dziovalis, Chapter No.81.

The officers of Chapter No.37, consisted of- Prof.Joseph Zilevicius, President; Anthony Pranskietis, 1st Vice-president; Stanley Valatka, 2nd Vice-preident; Anthony Mikulskis, 3rd Vice-president;Mrs.Isabelle(Bunes) Keturwitis,William A. Senkus, Treasurer; and Mrs.Victoria Zilevicius, Correspondent.

Source: Elizabeth Daily Journal
Sept.19,1945

MALDOS APOSTOLYSTES(Apostles of Prayer)-Church Society,celebrated its 50th Anniversary-Feb.6,1983-FOUNDED February 11,1933--and still functioning. in 1984

1933 DABARTINĖ APAŠTALYSTĖS MALDOS DRAUGIJOS VALDYBA
First OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

1st President Monika Pavalkiene(Pavalkis),third from right is still active(1984); all others are deceased

SKAITLINGIAUSIA IŠ BAŽNYTINIŲ DRAUGIJŲ PARAPIJOJE
Sąstata: Agota Mockevičienė, Aleksandra Karvojienė, Ona Milukienė, Kun. Klebonas Simonaitis
Monika Pavalkienė, Eva Misiukevičienė, Eva Vaitulionienė

On February 11,1933, during Mission Week at Sts.Peter and Paul Church,Missionary Father John Bruzekas and Rev. Joseph Simonaitis,Pastor, founded the Maldos Apostolystes Draugija-(Apostles of Prayer Society), according to Agota Degutiene(Degutis).

Election of officers were held and Monike Pavalkiene(Pavalkis), was elected President; Ona Milukiene(Milukas), Secretary and Aleksandra Karvojiene(Karvoius), Treasurer.

Degutiene said she served the Maldos Apostolystes Society 40 years as President and only recently gave up the presidency two years ago due to ill health.

Mrs.Degutis(Degutiene), admitted she was 96 years years old in February of 1984.

Mrs.Josephine Martinkus is the current President of the Maldos Apostolystes Society.

Degutiene was born in the district of Marianapolis,Lithuania, and later became a benefactor of the Marian Fathers Congregation, which Rev.Vincent Senkus and Rev.George Matulaitis,later becoming an Archbishop, once heading the Order.

While in the United States as its president, Degutiene and its members assisted financially Marian Fathers' new Candidates for the priesthood and the needs of the Seminary. Fathers and the Seminarians were Grateful.

The membership was jubilant when one of the Elizabeth neighboring boys, Joseph Dambrauskas, was ordained to the sacred priesthood on January 22,1939, at Immaculate Conception Chapel,Hinsdale,Illinois, and offered his First Solemn Mass, on Sunday, January 29,1939., in Church of Saints Peter and Paul,Elizabeth, New Jersey.

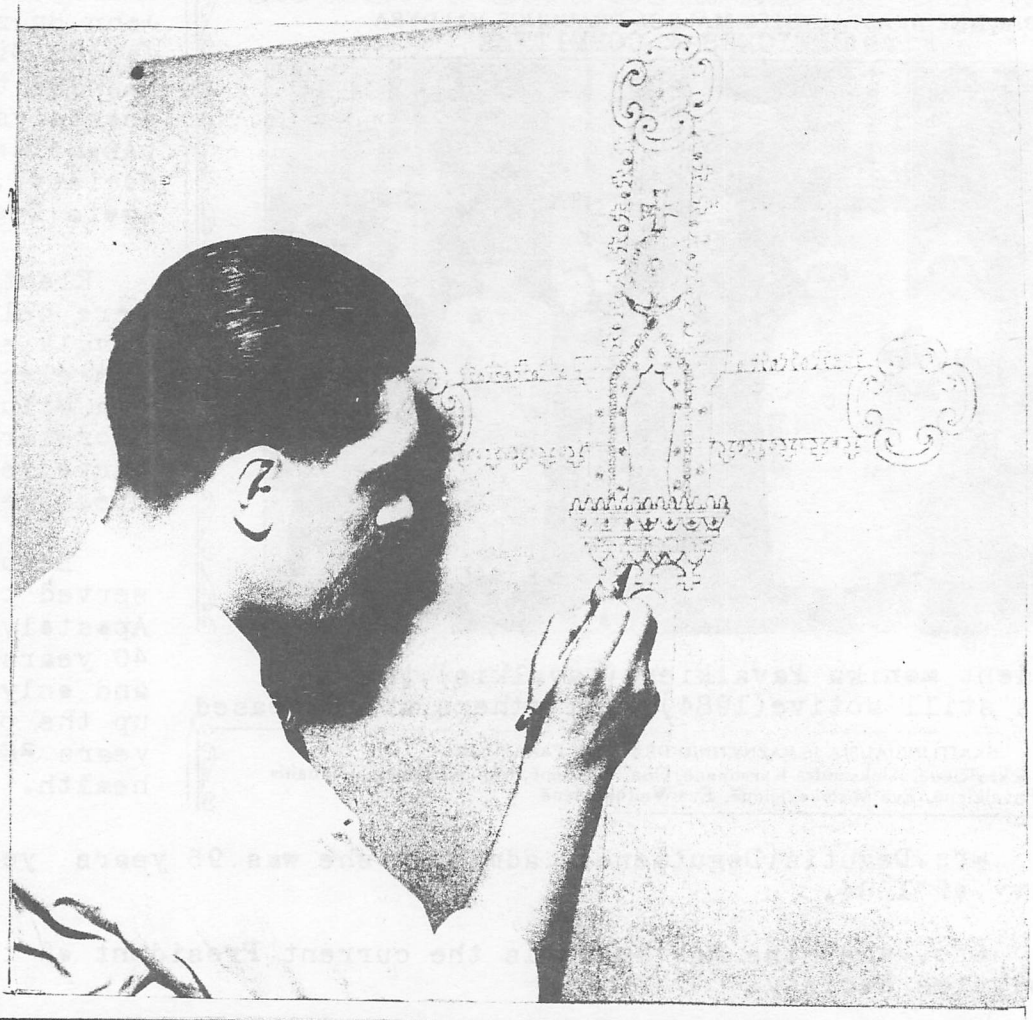
Rev.Joseph Dambrauskas is a gifted speaker and a great priest.

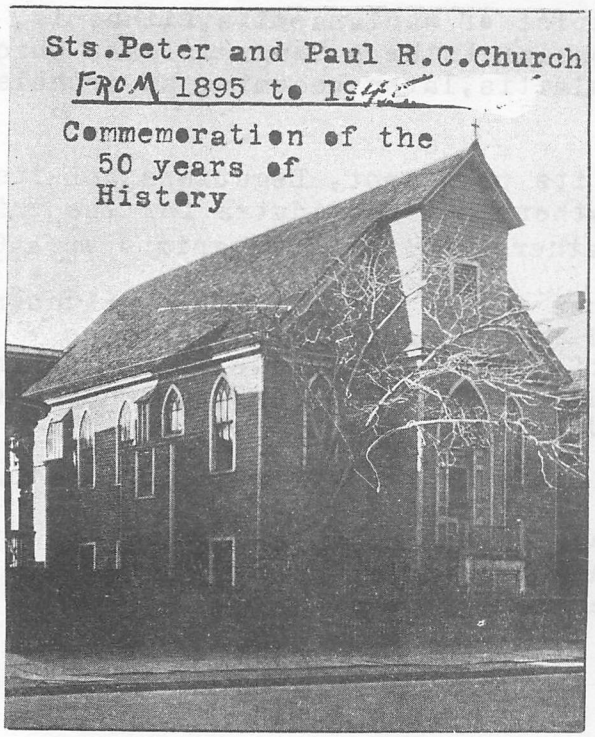
Father Dambrauskas and other Marian Priests have taken the necessary steps to gain sainthood forArchbishop George Matulatis-Matulevicius, the beloved "Venerable Servant of God."

WS

March 1,1984

Stanley Valatka designed and erected the Wayside Cross in the Church Yard of Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) R.C. Church, Ripley Pl., in Elizabeth, N.J.





ELIZABETH DAILY JOURNAL

Will Unveil Cross To Mark Jubilee

A twenty-foot jubilee cross, erected in commemoration of the fifty years of history of the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul's, will be unveiled at 2 P. M. tomorrow in ceremonies at the church, 211 Ripley place. The event is one of a long series of functions celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the church's founding.

The cross to be unveiled is a faithful replica of the roadside crosses which are to be seen all over Lithuania, native land of most of the original founders of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church. It has been designed and erected by Stanley Valatka, of 69 Magnolia avenue, who completed a course in fine arts at the Ukmerge School of Arts and Crafts, in Lithuania.

The blessing and dedication of the cross by Rev. Joseph J. Simonaitis, pastor of the church, will climax a series of ceremonies. Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Ambotas, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church, of Hartford, Conn., will officiate at solemn vespers at 3 o'clock. A sermon will be preached by Rev. John Balkunas, of the Church of the Annunciation, Maspeth, L. I. The sermon will be followed by solemn benediction, celebrated by Monsignor Ambotas.

Father Simonaitis has expressed the wish that the cross to be unveiled tomorrow which will stand in front of the church, may keep alive in the parish some of the religious and cultural spirit of the Lithuanian Nation, which today, he declared, is experiencing exploitation and domination by Communist Russia.

THE NEWARK STAR-LEDGER

Cross will mark church's 50 years

Commemorating the 50 years of history of Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish, a 20-foot jubilee cross will be unveiled at the church, 211 Ripley pl., Elizabeth, at 2 P. M. today.

The cross is a replica of roadside crosses seen all over Lithuania, native land of most of those in this parish. It was designed and erected by Stanley Valatka, 69 Magnolia ave., who studied arts in Lithuania.

Rev. Joseph J. Simonaitis, pastor, will bless and dedicate the cross as a climax of a series of ceremonies.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Twenty-Foot Cross Dedicated

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Nov. 24—Designed and executed by Stanley Valatka of this city, a graduate of the Ukmerge School of Arts and Crafts in Lithuania, a twenty-foot cross was unveiled and dedicated at a ceremony this afternoon in front of Sts. Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic Church here in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the parish. The Rev. Joseph J. Simonatis, the pastor, presided at the ceremony.

Church Dedicates Jubilee Cross

A 20-foot jubilee cross, product of more than six months of painstaking effort by a member of the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul's Lithuanian Church was unveiled yesterday afternoon in ceremonies at the church, 211 Ripley place.

A replica of the roadside crosses which can be seen all over Lithuania, the cross was designed and erected by Stanley Valatka, of 69 Magnolia avenue, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. The builder completed a course at the Ukmerge School of Fine Arts and Crafts, in Lithuania.

A solemn pontifical high mass of thanksgiving was offered June 30 to observe the congregation's fifty-year history.

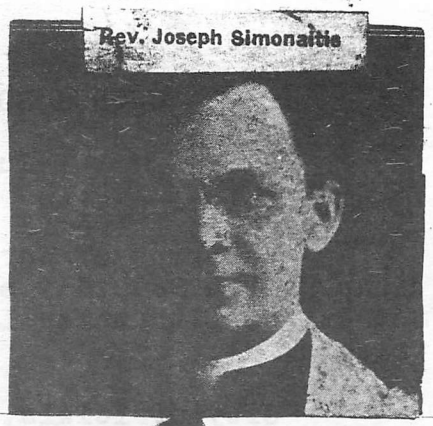
Parishioners filled the church to witness the service yesterday. Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Ambotas, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church, of Hartford, Conn., officiated at solemn vespers.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. John Balkunas, of the Church of the Annunciation, Maspeth, L. I. Father Balkunas declared that humble submission to suffering, represented by the cross, is necessary as it is God's plan to purge the world of its shortcomings and to make men more receptive to the peace which Christ came on earth to bring

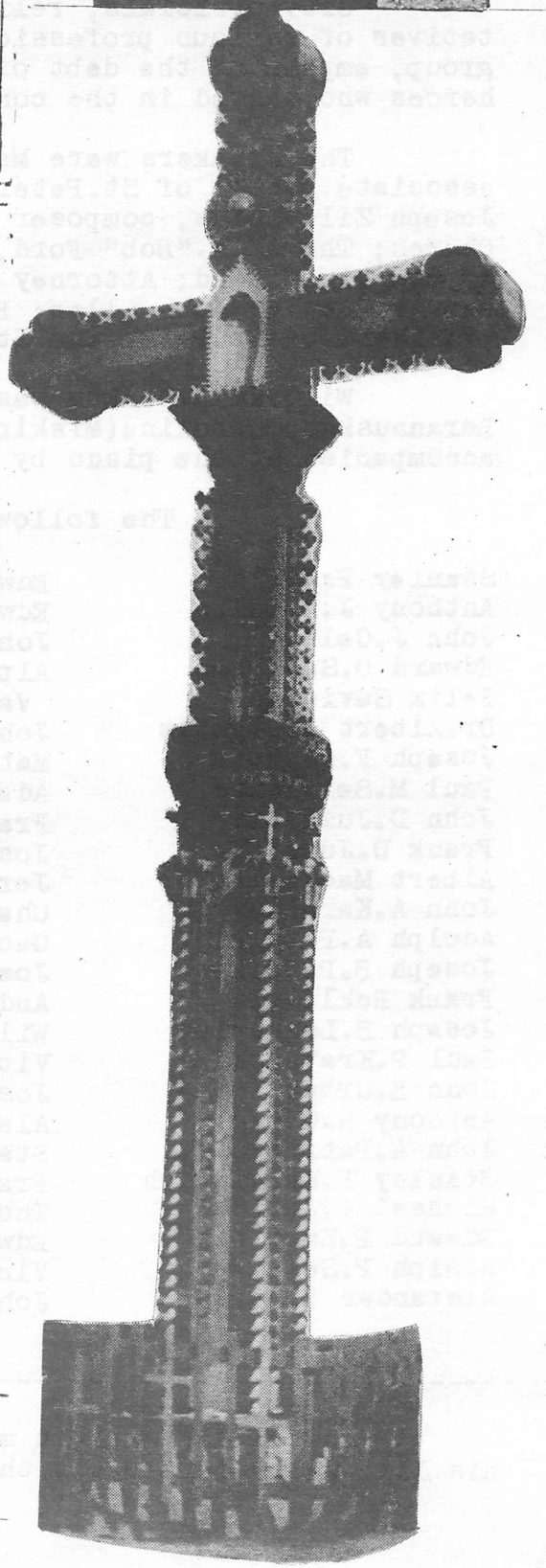
Many members of the clergy of Lithuanian churches in this district attended the ceremonies. Music was by the St. Peter and St. Paul choir, under the direction of Joseph Zilevicius.

Following the benediction, pronounced by Monsignor Ambotas, members of the clergy led a procession into the church yard, where the cross was unveiled and blessed by Monsignor Ambotas. Rev. Joseph J. Simonaitis, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, thanked the visiting clergy for attending and expressed his appreciation to the parishioners for their participation in the ceremonies.

23-24-25-XI-1956



Rev. Joseph Simonaitis



CHURCH SOCIETY FETES VETERANS

June,1946

Veterans of World War II were honored at a welcome home dinner given Saturday evening by St.Peter and St.Paul's Benefit Society in Lithuanian Liberty Hall for ex-service men and their friends.

City officials, religiious and civic leaners and representatives of various professions and organizations addressed the group, emphasing the debt of gratitude that the Nation owes to its heroes who served in the conflict.

The speakers were Mayor James T.Kirk, Rev.Dr.John Starkus, associate pastor of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian Church; Joseph Zilevicius, composer and organist at St.Peter and St.Paul's Church; Thomas A."Bob" Ford, Democratic nominee for City Council in the First Ward; Attorney John A.Patrick,Jr., Dr.Albert A.Degutis; George Budris; John Allen; Paul P.Krevetski and Kazys Bernotas, president of St.Peter and St.Paul's Benefit Society.

William A.Senkus was toastmaster. Wesley(Gene Baron) Baranauskas, Caroline(Miskinis) Farley; and Felix Puzinas sang, accompanied at the piano by Zilevicius. Gifts were distributed.

The following veterans were honored

Stanley Papalis
Anthony J.Papalis
John J.Cells
Edward D.Savickas
Felix Savickas
Dr.Albert A.Degutis
Joseph F.Degutis
Paul M.Selelonis
John D.Juzaitis
Frank D.Juzaitis
Albert Mackevich
John A.Karalius
Adolph A.Patalkis
Joseph B.Patalkis
Frank Reklaitis
Joseph B.Lenkevich
Paul P.Krevetski
John E.Urban
Anthony R.Urban
John A.Patrick,Jr.
Stanley P.Karalevich
Michael J.Zabita
Edward P.Zamaitis
Adolph P.Seikunas
Alexander B.Cells

Edward Zegreckis
Edward J.Cheponis
John F.Gedman
Alphonse A. Vaiculevich
John Allen
Matthew Waktar
Adam P.Baciulis
Francis J.Javel
Joseph Link
Jerome P.Yocius
Charles Javers
George D.Butkus
Joseph Zwingle
Andrew Klisius
William E.Patrick
Vito J.Patrick
Joseph Matuza
Alexander Balandis,Jr.
Stanley J.Haiko
Frank R.Zabita
Thomas S.Kaseta
Edward Mackevich
Vincent Zakariavicius
John Zakariavicius

John Kazilionis
Joseph Kazilionis
John Leikauskas
Anthony Leikauskas
Joseph Leikauskas
Alphonse J.Reklaitis
Sylvester M.Brazinski
Edward Markiavic
Henry Markiavic
Victor Brazinsky
Joseph Brazinsky
Joseph Balcunas
John Balcunas
George Balcunas
James Pinkin
Wallace Pinkin
John Brasiunas
Henry Sakelo
John C.Karalis
Raymond Anilionis
Daniel Anilionis
Paul Krasauskas
Leo Radzevicius
WmRadzevicius
Leon Zemeckis and
Anthony Bernat

Joseph Savickas, a member of the Beneficial Society, lost his life while serving in the U.S.Armed Services.

Mr.K.Bernotas, general chairman, was assisted by Romalda Dziovalis, G.Budris,Dominick(Petrucionis) Patrick, Peter Dilkus, W.Senkus,Theophilus Gursky and Simon Staboris.

Mrs.Peter Zamaitis, menu committe chairman, was assisted by Mrs.Charles Bernot, Mrs.Michael Lukis,Mrs.Casimir Vaiculevicius, Mrs.Simon Staboris and Mrs.Elizabeth Lutwin.

Other committees, assisted for the occasion, were: Walter Koblis,John Bruzga, D.Patrick, G.Budris, R.Dziovalis, Ronnie Krezonis, Eleanor Budris, Marian Bernotas, Anne Burneikis,Anne Stoboris, Stephanie Smalakis, Agnes Yarmala and Helen Krasauskis.

President K.Bernotas announced that during the War period, St.Peter and St.Paul Society purchased $1800. worth of U.S.Government war bonds. Mr.Bernotas reported a window pane in St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian Church(Kipley place), was previously donated by the Beneficial Society.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
June 6,1946

THE LITHUANIAN ELK'S OF ELIZABETH,N.J.

During the 1920s, an independent athletic group, the Elizabeth Lithuanian Knights- known as the ELK'S by name, were a popular athletic club which participated in baseball and basketball games.

Outstanding athletes in baseball were: Adolph Brazinski, Steve Burkowski, John Mattis, Frank Reden, Anthony Serefin, Frank Sidar, A.Yuskauskas, S.Sidar, Charles Bokenc, W.Vansavage, F.Smith, S.Steponavicius, J.Urban and "Ceaser."

In basketball, popular players were: A.Bjersted, Adolph Brazinski, Steve Burkowski, B.Mack, John Mattis, Frank Rhelick, Frank Reden, Jimmy Ryan, Adolph Patalkis, Joseph Patalkis, F.Sidar and W.Yankin.

E-Stands for Elizabeth
L- " " Lithuanian
K- " " Knights

Source- In 1954, the above names were nominated to the Lithuanian Hall of Fame, for their outstanding athletic activities in Elizabeth, N.J.

ELK'S

1953

The Golden Jubilee of St.Peter and St.Paul's Benefit Society
Elizabeth,N.J.February 7,1953

More than 200 members celebrated the Society's 50th anniversary in 1953 at a dinner Saturday night in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second street,Elizabeth.

John Kugis, charter member of the society, was honored by fellow members. Three other living charter members,John Pecukaitis, Stanley Papalis and Michael Luksis, were kept at home by illness.

Traditional Lithuanian dishes were prepared and served by a committee headed by Mrs.Ursula Dziovalis and Mrs.Mary Petrusionis.

Speakers included: Kazys Bernotas, president of the Society since 1924, for 29 years; Romalda Dziovalis, recording secretary, 30 years; George Budris, treasurer, 28 years; are among veteran members of the society group.

Other speakers were: Anthony Klebausis, manager of Liberty Hall;Attorney John A. Patrick,Jr.,Dominic (Petrucionis) Patrick, financial secretary; Frank (Dziovalis) Jawel, of the Union College faculty(Cranford,NJ); John Radzavicius; Attorney Charles J.Grinchis, former Planning Board; John (Bogocius) Richards; Dr.Albert Degutis; Stanley Dzikas; Charles Jankunas, Theophilius Gursky and William Senkus, dinner chairman; Paul Krevetski, vice-president of the Society, was toastmaster.

The society was founded on January 21,1903, and in 1953, had a total membership of 141 persons.

The first president, Mr.Dauksis, was elected in 1903. Other presidents serving the society were: Vincas Radziavicius; Vincas Prazinckas;Jonas Sabancksis; Ignas(Grincius)Grinchis; Frank(Savickas) Savick; Ant anas Kazakiavicius and Joseph Daraskavicius.

Kazys Bernotas was elected president in 1924. He remained president until the society disbanded with members receiving Liberty Hall Shares(Stock) and cash disbursements to complete the wind-up or termination of the society.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
February 9,1953

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

Council 52, Elizabeth,N.J.

25th Anniversary (November 10,1962)

For God and Country

Twenty-Five Years Ago, a group of Lithuanian-American men and women of our community decided to reorganize a KNIGHTS of LITHUANIA council in Elizabeth,N.J., with the assistance of Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael G.Kemezis, then a curate at Sts.Peter and Paul'S R.C.Church.

The year was 1937. The date,September 15. Place,Parish Hall, on Ripley Place. Prospective members- 25 persons present.

The purposes and ideals of the Knights of Lithuania organization were explained and then the first order of business was the nomination and election of officers: The results were: FRANK JANKUNAS,President;GENEVIEVE(Dopkus)MATUZA;Vice-President; ADOLPH DOBAR,Recording Secretary;LEOCADIA(Mickiewicz)POTTS, Financial Secretary;ANTHONY BARCAS and VINCENT POTTS,Treasurers; CHARLES KAKSTIS and ANNE MITCHELL-MATALAVICH,Correspondents; ALBERT MACK, Social Chairman;JOSEPH(Dugan)DEGUTIS,Sports Chairman; and MSGR.MICHAEL G.KEMEZIS, Spiritual Director.

The Knights of Lithuania organization was founded in 1913, nearly 50 years ago in New England by M.A. Norkunas. A local K.of L. council is established in nearly all important Lithuanian communities in the United States with the District K.of L. invited to hold their bi-monthly meetings at the various local councils.

During the past 25 years,Elizabeth Council 52, Knights of Lithuania, was honored in having 8 Presidents lead the council. They were Frank Jankunas, 1937-1940; Alphonse A.Vaiculevich, 1940-1945;Ms.Helen Pinkin,1945-1946;Xavier Josephs, 1946-1947; Vincent Zakarevich,1947-1949;Charles Oskutis, 1949-1957;James Stokas,1957-1958; and Dr.Algirdas Budreckis,1958-1959.

President Charles Oskutis, was re-elected again in 1959, 1960 and 1961 and has served 11 years, longest since the re-organization.

Charles Oskutis

H.M.
Annie Mitchell-
Matalavich

The Fourth Degree Members of the council are: Ms.Josephine Adams, Mr.& Mrs. Joseph & Antoinette Degutis, John Gedman, Mrs.Genevieve Matuza, Mrs.Alphonse Naryauskas, Charles Oskutis, Mrs.Leah Papalis, Ms Helen Pinkin,William Senkus, Elizabeth(Zemeckis)Pado, and John Oskutis,Ms.Annie Matalavich.

Ms.Annie Mitchell-Matalavich,former 4th Degree Member of the council was elevated to Honorary Member at the National Convention held in Detroit,Michigan in 1959. Ms.Mitchell served the National Supreme Council as 1st Vice-President and also as Recording Secreary.

Another member, Ms.Helen Pinkin served the Supreme Council as a Trustee.

Eleven Knights and Ladies had 25 year membership in the council. They were Dr.Albert Degutis, Mr.& Mrs.Joseph and Antoinette Degutis, Ms.Annie Mitchell-Matalavich, Mr.& Mrs.Anthony and Leah Papalis, Anthony(Spike) Pinkin,Ms.Helen Pinkin, William Senkus, Charles Surplis and Victor York.

Charles Oskutis had 21 year membership in the council.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES

of K.of L.Elizabeth Council 52

Host to the 36th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania in Elizabeth,N.J., on September 8,9,10 and 11,1949. (Previous national convention held here in 1927).

During convention three day Lithuanian exhibit at Elizabeth Public Library(South Broad St.) featured Lithuanian oil paintings, woodwork carvings, native costumes and other works of art. William Senkus was chairman in charge of the exhibit.

Council members celebrated the feast of St.Casimir, patron saint, annually by having Communion and breakfast in March.

Knights of Lithuania Affairs Committee and delegates attend the anniversary observance of the Declaration of Lithuanian Independence, FEBRUARY 16,1918, at a rally held annually in February in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269-273 Second St.,Elizabeth.

Its Minstrel shows were always outstanding and well received.Anthony Pinkin and Charles Oskutis, both men produced and directed shows for many years.

In 1939 the Elizabeth council partially financed "Shorty" Peck(Pecukaitis) to compete in the National Olympiad of Lithuania.

Honorary Member Annie Mitchell-Matalavich was elected President of Elizabeth K.of L. Council 52 in 1962-- and has served the council as president for many years including (1984) current year).

Elizabeth K.of L.Council 52 every year presented money gifts to the outstanding graduating pupils of Sts.Peter and Paul's Grammar School. It has donated also an oil painting of "VARGO MOKYKLA" to the school.

Elizabeth council donated District and Council banners to the Supreme K.of L.Council for use at all future K.of L.National Conventions.

Lithuanian Crosses were donated to the permanent Lithuanian exhibit in Boston,Mass.

American and Lithuanian flags and also gold candle sticks were presented to Sts.Peter and Paul's Parish(Elizabeth,N.J.)

Council 52 rewarded outstanding and active Elizabeth Junior K.of L. members by sending them to Summer Camps.

For exemplary work, First, Second and Third membership Degrees were tendered according to the Ritual Program. The Fourth Degree was tendered at the National Convention held in Elizabeth in 1949.

Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania members are proud of its activities since the reorganization of 1937, and for its contribution to the welfare of the youth.

A recent survey showed a Council 52 member... belongs to the parish Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus,the Altar Society, the Mothers Guild(PTA Member),Church Choir,Downtown War Veterans, a director of Liberty Savings and Loan Association(formerly Lithuanian S.& L.Association)Church Parish Council,Senior Citizens' Club.

Rev.Joseph Simonaitis and Ms.Annie Mitchell-Matalavich are the two Honorary Members of the Knights of Lithuania national organizationfrom Elizabeth,N.J.

Source: 25th Anniversary Of
Knights of Lithuania C-52
Souvenir Booklet
November 10,1962

Lithuania Knights Celebrate Silver Jubilee At Dinner

Elizabeth Council 52, Knights of Lithuania, observed its silver jubilee anniversary with a dinner and dance Saturday night in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269-73 Second St.

Speakers included Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, who aided in organizing the council 25 years ago; Rev. Vladas Karalevicius, council spiritual adviser and assistant pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, and John T. Glennon, counsel for the Elizabeth Redevelopment Agency.

Msgr. Kemezis recalled early history of the council. Father Karalevicius praised the group for its accomplishments.

Mr. Glennon outlined highlights of the organization and congratulated it for work among the youth of the community.

Rev. Peter Zemeikis, a native of Elizabeth and spiritual adviser for the New York and New Jersey District, Knights of Lithuania, and Joseph Sakevich, a former national president of K. of L. Supreme Council, praised the Elizabeth council for its cooperation with other councils.

Father Zemeikis is assistant pastor of St. Michael's Church, Bayonne.

Charles Oskutis and Norbert Wysocki were chairmen. They were assisted by other members.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Juzaitis of 34 Looker St., Hillside, presented a plaque they made showing a knight on horseback.

Source-
Elizabeth Daily
Journal 11/13/62

GREETINGS

Congratulations and best wishes to Knights of Lithuania, Elizabeth Council 52, on its 25th anniversary.

From

The members and Juniors
of Council 52
Knights of Lithuania

1948

Lithuania Knights Advance Plans for Spring Minstrel

"April Showers of 1948" is the title chosen for the minstrel and dance to be sponsored by Council 52, Knights of Lithuania, on April 16 and 17 at Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second street. The council met Tuesday night at the hall to make plans for this and other events. Anthony Pinkin will coach and direct the minstrel, rehearsals for which will be held every Tuesday and Friday, beginning January 27.

Vincent Zakarevich, general chairman, has named Raymond Zabita and Edward Anilionis as co-chairmen for a souvenir booklet to be printed in connection with the minstrel. Miss Ann Mitchell is ticket chairman.

March 7 has been selected as the date for the council's annual communion breakfast. Daniel Degutis reported on the special drive to enroll new members which will continue until March 31. New members accepted at the meeting are Miss Lorraine Paulauskas, Miss Eva Potts, Miss Frances Lisevich, Frank Warkala, James Stokas, Joseph Juskis and Frank Lisevich.

Council delegates to the New York-New Jersey K. of L. district convention to be held at 3 P. M. Sunday at Lithuanian Liberty Hall are: Edward Mack, Lawrence Mack, Joseph Matuse, Miss Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Matuza. The delegates have been instructed to encourage a K. of L. district move to revive track meets at Warinanco Park.

Sports equipment which the council sent to Lithuanian displaced persons in Germany before Christmas has been acknowledged, it was reported. Food packages also were sent to Europe. The council is cooperating with the drive of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc., to obtain clothing and food packages for suffering people abroad.

Council 52 unanimously adopted a resolution drafted by the New York-New Jersey K. of L. District, which goes on record as "voicing its most ardent protest against Communism in any and all of its vicious forms" and urging that "every member * * * do everything in his power to help stem the tide of Communism."

Anthony Pinkin coached and directed the minstrel show.
Charles Oskutis was the Interlocutor

APRIL SHOWERS OF 1948

Directed by ANTHONY PINKIN — *Music by* LOU PAIGE

PROGRAM

Star Spangled Banner ..... Orchestra

ACT I

1. Awkward Squad ..... Geo. Butkus, Rodman Decker, Louie Berzanski, Ray Zabita, Nick Chafitelli
2. My Diamond ..... Sung by Gene Barron
   Song composed by Prof. Joseph Zilevicius
3. Carnival Game ..... A. Pinkin, N. Chafitelli, Lorraine Paulauskas
4. Feats of Magic ..... Douglas Oxner

INTERMISSION

Interlocutor — Charles Oskutis

END MEN

Nick (Peggy) Chafitelli
George (Bettum Hi) Butkus
Raymond (Moe) Zabita
Louis (Short Pants) Berzanski
Rodman (Buffy) Decker
Louis (Big Lips) Cheety

ACT II

1. Opening—"April Showers"—From "Bombo" ..... Chorus
2. I'm a Lonely Little Petunia ..... Raymond (Moe) Zabita
3. Apple Blossom Wedding ..... Joe T. Matuse
4. Baton Whirling and Boogie-Woogie Selections ..... Mildred Chafitelli
5. Beg Your Pardon ..... Ruth Uffelman
6. Tap Dance Specialty ..... Betty Anne Valush
7. Down Home In Tennessee ..... Louie Cheety
8. Accordian Selections ..... Ed Sharkus
9. How Lucky You Are ..... Leo Blaze
10. Bill Bailey Will You Please Come Home? ..... George Butkus
11. Jealousy ..... Caroline Miskinis
12. Cow Girl Selections ..... Anne Bonnini
13. The Whiffenpoof Song ..... Charles Oskutis
14. Desert Song (From Operetta "Desert Song") ..... Gene Barron
15. Rock-a-Bye Your Baby ..... Rodman Decker
16. Tap Dance Specialty ..... Harold Wright
17. Ol Man River (From "Show Boat") ..... Felix Puzinas
18. Mason Dixon Line ..... Nick Chafitelli
19. My Hero ..... Rose Marciona
20. They Go Wild, Simply Wild ..... Louie Berzanski
21. Grand Finale—Look For the Silver Lining ..... Ensemble

(*Continued*)

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

In 1951 Elizabeth Council 52, presented the "Campus Capers of 1951" on Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, April 21, 1951--

ALSO

in 1953, the Council presented the "South Sea Island Capers" on April 25 and May 2, 1953.

1948

APRIL SHOWERS OF 1948

COMMITTEES

Spiritual Advisor — Rev. Anthony P. Kasper

General Chairman — Vincent Zakarevich

Committee In Charge

Daniel Degutis — William A. Senkus

Ticket Chairman — Ann Mitchell

Usherettes

Helen Pinkin — Josephine Adams — Albina Kirvel
Leah Papalis

Advertising

William A. Senkus, Chairman

Vincent Zakarevich — Josephine Adams — George Butkus
Joseph Matuse — Daniel Degutis — James Selelonis
Raymond Zabita

Stage

Victor Jurkunas — Vio Murzinski — Jesse Hlatke

— GOOD NITE —
DANCING AFTER SHOW

PROGRAM — Continued

●

CHORUS

BOYS

Daniel Degutis — Donald Anilonis — Frank Pukavich
Anthony Baron — Edward Anilonis — Norby Wysocki
Donald Crilly — Herby Horbacz — Pete Kasilionis

GIRLS

Rita Cupo — Marion Bernatas — Eva Potts
Frances Lisevick — Veronica Plungis — Frances Blaze
Phyllis Sundell — Anne Staboris — Theresa Miskinis
Joan Monahan — Antoinette Krezonis — Frances Balandis
Rose Marie McKeon — Frances Buzis — Lorraine Paulauskas
Peggy Merritt — Anne Baronas

Program Subject to Change

Please Refrain from Smoking During the Performance

Lithuanian Knights Minstrel Draws Big Attendance

Capacity crowds Friday and Saturday nights witnessed "April Showers of 1948," a minstrel show presented by Council 52, Knights of Lithuania, in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second street.

Vincent Zakarevich was general chairman and Anthony Pinkin directed the show. Charles Oskutis was interlocutor and end men were Nicholas Chafitelli, George Butkus, Raymond Zabita, Louis Berzanski, Rodman Decker and Louis Cheety.

Soloists were Mr. Zabita, Joseph Matuse, Miss Ruth Uffelman, Mr. Cheety, Leo Blaze, Mr. Butkus, Miss Caroline Miskinis, Miss Anne Bonnini, Charles Oskutis, Gene Barron, Mr. Decker, Felix Puzinas, Mr. Chafitelli, Miss Rose Marciona and Mr. Berzanski.

Tap dances were performed by Harold Wright and Miss Betty Anne Valush. Accordion selections were played by Edward Sharkus. Baton whirling was performed by Miss Mildred Chafitelli, who also played the piano.

Other features included a comedy skit, a circus carnival game, feats of magic by Douglas Oskutis and "My Diamond," a composition by Joseph Zilevicius, sung by Mr. Barron.

Mrs. Leah Papalis and Miss Albina Kirvel were ushers.

Knights of Lithuania Initiate Dinner Plans

To celebrate the success of its recent minstrel, "April Showers of 1948," Elizabeth Council, 52, Knights of Lithuania, Tuesday evening made plans for a dinner May 14 in Lithuanian Liberty Hall.

Raymond Zabita, social chairman, reported on the two-day show April 16 and 17. William A. Senkus, advertising chairman, gave an account of proceeds from the souvenir program.

Joseph Degutis, sports chairman, reported plans are advancing for a track and field meet to be sponsored by the New York and New Jersey District Knights of Lithuania on Sunday, June 6, in Warinanco Park. A victory dinner will be held the same evening when medals and trophies will be presented to winners.

Appointed delegates to the Knights of Lithuania District convention at Bayonne next month were William A. Senkus, Vincent Zakarevich, Joseph Matuse, Charles Surplis, James Selelonis, Frank Reklaitis, George Butkus, Paul Smidjunas, Anthony Matuse, Alphonse Reklaitis, Walter Devanas, Miss Elizabeth Zemeckis, Miss Frances Buzis, Mrs. Anne Staskevich, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Garby, Mr. and Mrs. William Klimas and Mr. and Mrs John Starr.

ELIZ. D. S. 4/30/48

Written by William Senkus and
Annie Mitchell-Matalavich

Elizabeth, N. J.

COUNCIL 52

Add another laurel to the accomplishments of Council 52. We were declared first place winners in the national membership drive. Daniel Degutis, our genial membership chairman, is acknowledged as the spark plug in promoting the recent campaign. He will receive a gift from the Lithuanian displaced persons in Germany for his successful management of the campaign.

Vincent Zakarevich, president, received a gavel as a prize from the Honorable Maurice J. Tobin, former Mayor of Boston, for the council's success in enrolling the most new members.

Our minstrel show "April Showers of 1948" held on April 16 and 17, in the Lithuanian Liberty Hall, with Vincent Zakarevich, general chairman, and under the capable direction of Anthony Pinkin, was ably performed by local talent and it was a Broadway hit. Charles Oskutis, was the interlocutor and master of ceremonies. Radio or television sponsors could use his services; truly a wonderful performer. Do we hear Hollywood calling, Charlie? Critics acclaimed the shows as superb entertainment, both for adults and children.

A 48-page souvenir program booklet was distributed in connection with the minstrel and featured the activities and accomplishments of Prof. Joseph Žilevičius, the composer, in the field of music. Gene Barron, baritone, sang a special composition of Žilevičius. More than 200 advertisers cooperated. The advertisement committee consisted of William Senkus, chairman, and he was assisted by Vincent Zakarevich, Joseph Matuse, Daniel Degutis, VERONICA Plungis, George Butkus and James Selelonis. Ticket chairman was Anne Mitchell; in charge of publicity was Anne Mitchell and William Senkus.

Outstanding soloist and performers were Raymond Zabita, Joseph Matuse, Mildred Chafitelli, Ruth Uffelman, Betty Ann Valush, Louis Cheety, Edward Sharkus, Leo Blaze, George Butkus, Caroline Miskinis, Anne Bonnini, Charles Oskutis, Gene Barron, Rodman Decker, Harold Wright, Felix Puzinas, Nick Chafitelli, Rose Marciona, Louis Berzanskis, Douglas Oxner and Anthony Pinkin, director.

The Ensemble consisted of Daniel Degutis, Anthony Baronas, Donald Crilly, Donald Anilonis, Edward Anilonis, Herby Horbacz, Frank Pukavich, Norby Wysocki and Peter Kasilionis.

Also Rita Cupo, Frances Lisevick, Phyllis Sundell, Joan Monahan, Rose Marie McKeon, Marion Bernotas, Veronica Plungis, Anne Staboris, Antoinette Krezonis, Frances Buzis, Eva Potts, Frances Blaze, Theresa Miskinis, Frances Balandis, Lorraine Paulauskas and Anne Baronas.

For their efforts in presenting the shows, Council 52 gave a banquet in June honoring the cast and crew. Gifts were distributed, women receiving compacts and men leather belts. Anthony Pinkin received an inscribed wrist watch.

Lawrence Mack, captain of the Elizabeth Dodgers, has a trophy to show his team mates for their bowling activities in the N. Y. — N. J. District K. of L. Bowling League. The Elizabeth Giants, in second place, was captained by Joseph Degutis.

At the district convention held in May, Kearny, N. J., four Elizabeth members were elected: Josephine Adams, recording secretary; Helen Pinkin, Anne Baronas and William Senkus, trustees.

Members voted a gift of $10.00 to a June graduate of St. Peter and St. Paul's Lithuanian Parochial School with the highest scholastic average.

Bill Klimas, chairman, and Joseph Matuse, co-chairman, of this year's district picnic held in Linden, N. J., are two energetic members of C-52 who work diligently for the Lithuanian cause. More power to both of them.

The committee for the bus ride to Seaside Heights will be in charge of Frances Lisevick, chairman, and she will be aided by Marion Bernotas, Anne Baronas, Rita Cupo and Peggy Merritt.

Josephine Adams, chairman of the ritual committee, has the following men and women lined up for third degree initiation rites and we wish them all success: Mrs. Louise Forster, Joseph Matuza, Charles Oskutis, Mrs. Mary Oskutis, Helen Pinkin, Anthony Pinkin, Veronica Plungis, Mrs. Anna Staskevich, Anthony Staskevich, Charles Surplis, Victor Jurkunas and Anthony Yudd.

Our annual fall dance will be held in the Lithuanian Liberty Hall, on September 25.

The national organists convention will also be held in Elizabeth at the parish hall, the latter part of August,, and we hope to meet many of our old friends and make new ones. Professor Joseph Žilevičius, organist of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, is the general chairman. Rev. Joseph Simonaitis, pastor, and honorary member of the Knights of Lithuania, will celebrate Solemn High Mass.

The above letter was addressed to-- Miss Phyllis Grendal, Assistant Editor of "VYTIS", National publication of the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

LITHUANIA KNIGHTS PREPARE PROGRAM FOR CONVENTION- 1949

Arrangementsfor the thirty-sixth national convention of the Knights of Lithuania in Elizabeth,N.J., September 8,9,10 and 11 are nearing completion, Vincent Zakarevich, general conclave chairman and president of Elizabeth Council 52, reported at a council meeting Tuesday night at Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second St.,Elizabeth.

William Senkus announced that arrangements have been made with the Elizabeth Public Library for a three-day Lithuanian exhibit. The display will feature Lithuanian oil paintings, woodwork carvings, native costumes and other works of art. City officials, including Mayor James T.Kirk, will be invited to attend. The exhibition will be opened to the general public at 1 P.M. September 8 with a special program.

On September 9 the delegates and guest will attend mass at 8:45 A.M. at Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian R.C. Church. Blessing of the New York and New Jersey Knights of Lithuania district flag and special outdoor services for deceased members also will take place that morning.

Breakfast will be served in the parish hall, prior to opening at 10 A.M. of the first conclave sessions. Mrs.Dometila Staboris and Mrs.Ronnie Naryaukas will bein charge. Various social affairs and luncheons in connection with the convention will be held in Lithuanian Liberty Hall.

A yacht,"The Sightseer," has been engaged for Friday evening September 9, for a sail up the Hudson River. Rehearsals are now in progress by a group of refugees, recently arrived from Europe, who will present a program on the boat under the direction of Prof.Joseph Zilevicius, organist at Sts.Peter and Paul Church. The rehearsals are being held at 10 A.M. each Sunday in the parish hall.

On Sunday, September 11, there will be a street parade starting at 10:15 A.M. AND THE DELEGATES, GUEST AND OTHERS will gather at the church for solemn high mass at 10:45 A.M. A dinner to close the convention is planned for 7 P.M. at the Essex House, Newark. At that time eleven members of Elizabeth K.of L.Council 52, will receive the fourth degree.

Delegates from Elizabeth Council 52, include Honorary Member,Rev.Joseph Simonaitis &Rev. Anthony Kasper, pastor and associate pastor respectively of Sts.Peter and Paul Church. William Senkus, Daniel Degutis , Miss Josephine Adams, Miss Helen Pinkin and Miss Ann Mitchell-Matalavich are the other delegates.

Honorary Member Joe Beley(Bulevicius)

Joe Beley attended the 15th National K.of L. Convention in Elizabeth in 1927, the 36th Convention again in Elizabeth in 1949, and the 70th convention in Philadelphia,Pa.in 1983. Mr.Beley is an active member of the Brooklyn,NY,K.of L.

Rev. Joseph Simonaitis, Pastor & Honorary Chairman, is not in the picture

36th K. of L. National Convention-Sept. 9-10-11, 1949

1949-ELIZABETH, N.J.-KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, COUNCIL 52, MEMBERS

Front Row-William Senkus, Ann Baronas, Marion (Bernotas) Markowitz, Rev. Anthony P. Kasper, Spiritual Director of K. of L. Council 52, Annie Mitchell-Matalavich, Vincent Zakarevich.

Second Row- Rita (Cupo) Carney, Louise (Janusauskas) Forster, Frances (Balandis) Milewski, Frances (Buzis) Alexander, Albina Kirvelevich, Ann Staboris Marian (Wycosky) Dudis, Leah (Kugis) Papalis, Ms. Ryan, Elizabeth (Zemeckis) Pado, Peggy Merritt, Josephine Adomaitis-Adams, Helen Pinkin.

Third Row- Veronica Krezonis, Helen Lukash, Vickie (Barkowski) Vaiculevich-Genevieve (Dopkus) Matuza, Antoinette (Jankunas) Degutis, Veronica (Naryauckas) Zurinski, Frances (Lisevich) Hondo, Frances (Butkus) Stankus.

Fourth Row- John Pukavicius, Mr. Pado, Alexander Balandis, John Gedman, Charles Bason, guest from Jersey City K of L Council, Alphonse Vaiculevich, William Shimonis, Ralph Kirvelevich, Anthony Papalis, Raymond Zabita.

Fifth Row- A. Clark, Anthony Baronas, Charles Oskutis, Joseph Matusevich, Attorney Charles Grinchis-Grincius, Prof. Juozas Zilevicius, Council 52 member and organist at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Norbert Wysocki, Attorney John Patrick-Petrikas, Charles Surplis, Joseph Degutis, Anthony Matusevich, Adolph Oskutis Daniel Degutis, Peter Kasilionis and Charles Rusteika.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
COUNCIL 52
ELIZABETH, N.J.

Sept. 8,9,10 & 11,1949

Josephine-Ademaitis-Adams not present when picture of Convention Committee was take

CONVENTION COMMITTEE,

(Left to right sitting) — William Senkus, treasurer, Ann Staboris co-secretary, Father Kasper, spiritual advisor, Ann Mitchell, secretary, Vincent Zakarevich, general chairman. (Top row, left to right standing) — Joseph Degutis, sports history, Frances Balandis, Ronnie Krezonis, Helen Pinkin, Arrangement Committee, and Daniel Degutis, advertising.

Source-
"VYTIS" Sept.1949

MYKOLAS NORKUNAS, founder of the Knights of Lithuania, and Josephine Ademaitis-Adams, riding in the open car.

Left to Right-
Rev.Anthony P.Kasper, Associate Pastor; Fr.Joseph Simonaitis, Pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth, and Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania; Miss Annie Mitchell-Matalavich, also Honorary Member; Msgr.John Balkunas and Rev.John Jutkevicius, Spiritual Advisor.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Lithuanians End 3-Day Session
(Sept.9-10-11, 1949)

A parade through the streets of downtown Elizabeth,N.J., solemn high mass in Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church, Ripley place, and a dinner attended by 350 persons at Essex House,Newark, September 11, highlighted the concluding activities of the three-day national convention of the Knights of Lithuania yesterday.

Knights of Lithuania, Council 52, of Elizabeth, was host to the delegates, who came from many parts of the United States. It was the thirty-sixth annual convention of the organization.

Rev.John Jutkevicius, of Worcester,Mass., national spiritual adviser, speaking at the dinner, called on all persons of Lithuanian background to join in protest against the religious and political persecution being waged in Lithuania by Soviet Russia. He said that despite the suppression of new behind the Iron Curtain, it has been learned from leaders of the anti-Communist underground that 600,000 Lithuanians have been deported to the barren wastes of Siberia since 1941.

Kirk Speaks

Other speakers included Mayor James T.Kirk, Thomas A.Ford, president of City Council; Frank Razwad, who headed the national organization five years;Rev.Joseph Dambrauskas,M.I.C. of Marianapolis College,Thompson,Conn.Father Dambrauskas is a native of Elizabeth and belonged to Sts.Peter and Paul Parish,Elizabeth; Rev.Joseph Simonaitis pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church here, and Rt.Rev.Msgr. John Balkunas, of Maspeth,L.I.

Speakers were introduced by Vincent Zakarevich, general chairman of the convention, and Miss Ann Mitchell-Matulevich,H.M. secretary of Elizabeth Council 52. Joseph Boley, of New York, former national president, presented Lithuanian crosses to Miss Peggy Zakaras, of Chicago, who secured the greatest number of new members during the last year, and to Miss Anna May Uznis, of Detroit, in recognition of her work as financial secretary. Rev.Anthony P. Kasper, spiritual adviser of Council 52, was thanked for his assistancy in planning the convention.

Resolution Aired

Commenting on a resolution previously adopted by the convention, Father Jutkevicius emphasized the importance of informing the people of America and other free nations of the plight Lithuania under Soviet domination, so that nation may again enjoy peace and liberty. He urged that Lithuania be permitted to present its case before the United Nations.

The T.A.B. Society's Fife,Drum and Trumpet Corps, under the direction of Andrew Dargis, led the parade of delegates yesterday morning from Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second Street, to Magnolia avenue, to Third street and to the church, on Ripley place. The group marched into the church in a solemn procession. More than thirty members of the clergy were within the sanctuary during the solemn mass. Father Simonaitis, the celebrant, was assisted by Rev.Joseph Girgis, of Pittsburgh, as deacon and Rev. Albert Contons, of Boston, as sub-deacon. Father Kasper was the master of ceremonies, and Father Jutkevicius preached the sermon.

The fourth degree of the order was conferred upon thirteen members, including Father Simonaitis, with Monsignor Balkunas, officiating.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
Sept.12,1949

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN ATHLETES
(In Track and Field Events)
Outstanding Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania athletes were--

George Adikus, Charles Baltramaitis, Charles Berzanskis, Louis Berzanskis, Peter Cotton, Daniel Gaines, Joseph Gaines, Cifert Gawalis, Vince Gaudiesus, James Grincius, Frank Jankunas, Edward Kalainikas, John Kneser, Adolph Lakasky, Vince Lakasky, Joseph Laucius, Joseph Milukas, Constantine Peskus, Edward Petrovic, George Pranskeitis, Joseph Richkus, Stanley Richkus, Joseph White and Stephen Zidtoweskis.

Feminine athletes of the council who attained success in track and field events were: Stella Begda, Mary Butkus, Anna Gawalis, Brence Gulbin, Anna Motches, Edith Jankunas, Anna Savick, Lillian Savick and Antoinette Yeckty.

In addition, outstanding men bowlers were: George Butkus, Walter Drescher, Joseph Degutis, John Gedman, Xavier Josephs, John Kizelevich, Peter Laura(Lauranaitis),Larry Mack,Joseph Matusevicius, Joseph Matuzas, Peter Newallis, John Oskutis, Charles Oskutis, Adolph Oskutis, Anthony Pinkin, Joseph Plungis, Steven Potts, Michael Reakus, Charles Rusteika, Arthur Seikunas, Charles Surplis, Joseph Pakstis, Alphonse Vaiculevich,Victor Yorke, Louis Yanulavich-Young, Vince Zakarevich, William Patrick(Petrucionis), John Zalapukes.

Also, outstanding women bowlers were: Helen Balandis, Mary Butkus, Antoinette Jankunas-Degutis, Eva Potts,Veronica Krezonis, Antoinette Krezonis, Albina Kirvel, Genevieve Dopkus-Matuzas, Annie Mitchell-Matulevich, Veronica Maryauckas, Anne Onda, Mary Vaich-Oskutis, Helen Pinkin, Elizabeth Zemeckis-Pado, Anne Staberis, Helen Vaich-Zwingle and Leah Kugis-Papalis.

W.S.

ELIZABETH COUNCIL 52

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

ELIZABETH, N.J.

HOST TO

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA NATIONAL CONVENTION

September 9-10-11, 1949

Banquet held at ESSEX HOUSE-Newark, New Jersey

Sunday, Sept. 11, 1949

REV.DEAN MARTIN GESSNER

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 3310

Summer St.(Bayway) Elizabeth,N.J.

Present Chaplain(1984) is Rev.Joseph V.Derbyshire

The Knights of Columbus was founded 100 years ago in March of 1882, in New Haven, Conn., to provide mutual aid and assistance to its members and their families. The organization now has over 1 million members in the United States and other countries.

In Elizabeth,N.J., Rev. Anthony P.Kasper, assistant at Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) R.C. Church, Ripley Place, was Chaplain of K. of C.Council 3310.

Past Presidents or Grand Knights of Council 3310, were--

Thomas A. Vangritis,Sr. 1950-1951

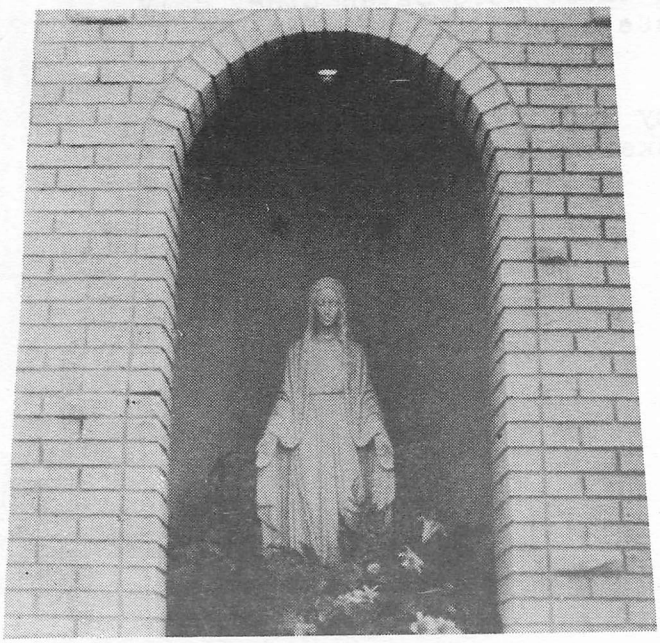
Adolph J.Lignugaris, 1961-1962

Peter J.Zabita,Jr. 1965-1966

Knights of Columbus membership consists of a number of persons from the parish of Sts.Peter and Paul.

At one time, Knights of Columbus Council 3310, held meetings in the parish hall of Sts.Peter and Paul Church.

Statute of Blessed Virgin Mary



Past Chaplain of K.of C.Council 3310

646 Summer Street, Elizabeth,N.J.

REV. ANTHONY P. KASPER.

STS.PETER AND PAUL'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY WAS LEAD BY

THE GEORGE H.IMHOE POST, AMERICAN LEGION OF PHILADELPHIA

SUNDAY,OCTOBER 9,1949

"And the Last Shall Be First."

Rev.Anthony P.Kasper, of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian R.C. Church, is slow to t erm any unusual occurence a "miracle"- but he acknowledges an incredible stroke of luck had a part in his parish unit's creditable turnout in the Holy Name parade last Sunday.(10/9/49).

Marching smartly with the St.Peter and St.Paul delegation of nearly 300 men was a fifty-piece drum and bugle corps which won approval all up and down the line of spectators. This was the George H.Imhoe Post, American Legion, of Philadelphia. In shinny black sateen uniforms, with large fuchsia-colored trimmings and- final stroke of all- Fuchsia Pompons Standing Bravely Overhead, the Legionaires corralled much of the day's attention.

To the cadence of the Philadelphia unit's sprightly music, ST.PETER AND ST.PAUL'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY marched in Sunday best. Dr.Albert Degutis was marshal, first of the platoon of twenty-five dressed in cutaways and top hats for the event. Spectators cheered, the men marched proudly. Everybody was happy.

Especially Father Kasper. Last May the energetic young priest had made verbal arrangements with a New York band to play for St.Peter and St.Paul's unit in the Holy Name parade. Two weeks before he was told that, through error, the New Yorkers had another engagement and couldn't come here.

For twelve days, while parish affairs clamored for his attention, Father Kasper contacted musical organizations throughout New Jersey and even in New York. But there were seven other Holy Name parades in the Newark Archdiocese alone, and counterparts elsewhere.Not a band was to be had.

Father Kasper called on army authorities at Camp Kilmer and Governors' Island. No time to make the necessary arrangements. No Luck.

Meanwhile the parish's men, whose interest in their church has been intensified in the past year under leadership ofFather Kasper and his pastor, Rev.Joseph Simonaitis, had laid ambitious plans for a big turnout of men and a top-hat, striped-pants platoon, and had raised funds for a big band.

At 7:30 o'clock last Friday evening, less than two days before the Holy Name parade, Father Kasper picked up a telephone, said to Miss Information: "Give me the number of any American Legion post in Philadelphia." He was connected with the Imhoe Post. His parish had the most SPECTACULAR BAND in the parade.

Right on the heels of the Police, Firemen and Postal Employes Holy Name Members, with their colorful band, HOWEVER, marched the musicians of the day: The Handsomely arrayed, sprightly blaring instrumentalist of the George H. Imhoe Post, American Legion,of Philadelphia.

The Imhoe Legionaires forced exclamations from spectators at every hand. They were clad in uniforms of black with large and striking designs worked in fuchsia, and off-red color that dimmed the splendor of the other bands in the long line of march.

A prominent clergyman spoke at the rally in Warinanco Park(Roselle-Elizabeth section) and told an estimated 25,000 listeners that "Love of God and of humanity could turn the mythical Utopia into reality if these virtues were practised by all mankind."

Vocal accompaniment was provided by a church choir.

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament concluded the day's ceremonies.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
Oct.10 and 15,1949

Sts.Peter and Paul's HNS unit had one of the largest number of men dressed in toppers and formal attire; a grand total of twenty. They were our Grand Marshal, Dr.Albert Degutis;Jim Bluse, Paul Kirvelevicius,Dick Barry, John(Zally) Zalapukes, Frank Hudziak,Adam Naiva,Charles Grinchis,William Senkus, Joe Kesolits,John Patrick, Ed Zack, Jim Ryan,John Parker, Bruno Aravicius, Jim Selelionis, Bill Shimonis, Pete Kasilonis, Steve Yewaisis& Tom Miskinis.

The flag bearers were Walter Malinouski, Casimir Chiponis and Joe Matusevicius.

Source-Queen's Page,Sodality's
Monthly Bulletin
October,1949

The Holy Name Parade, led by Rev.Joseph Simonaitis, Pastor, and members in top hats.

The Holy Name Society of Sts.Peter and Paul Church participated every year in a parade sponsored by the Union County Federation of Holy Name Societies.

The Clergy and members in top hats led the parade with Holy Name banners and American flags flying in the breeze. A hired drum And bugle corp band led the marchers from downtown Elizabeth to Warinanco Park, a distance of 7 miles.

A prominent clergyman spoke at the rally and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament concluded the days ceremonies in the park.

In returning home, the marchers and their families enjoyed a delightful evening of refreshments furnished by the parish Holy Name Society.

PASTOR LAUDS 37 FOR PARISH AID

Thirty-seven men of the Holy Name Society of Sts.Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church were cited today by Rev.Joseph J. Simonaitis, their pastor, as exemplary parishioners for volunteer work through-out the summer on repair and reconstruction of parish buildings.

The men,Father Simonaitis said, contributed time and labor to strech a $7,000 budget to cover $30,000 to $40,000 worth of improvements.

"These men worked full-time and overtime, throughout the heat of summer, without compensation and did not look for as much as a word of thanks," Father Simonaitis said. "Whole-hearted devotion to their parish, such as they showed, would be hard to duplicate. They showed perfect humility in their sacrifice, asking neither thanks nor special attention. Here is a perfect example of pure dedication to an ideal."

The men of Sts.Peter and Paul's rallied to a call from their curate, Rev.ANTHONY P.KASPER, last June. Their parish social center, at 216 Ripley Place,(Elizabeth,N.J.) had a leaky roof. The men volunteered to furnish a complete new roof. The work was undertaken under supervision of Albert Lasco, chairman of the house committee of the Holy Name Society.

New Roof, Small Cost

The roof was completed at virtually no cost at all. Then the workers who did the job looked around for any other little tasks that needed doing.

Almost spontaneously, the men's energies were directed to painting the eight classrooms in the parish school, and the school office and lavatories as well. Before World War II, Father Kasper found, it cost $300 to paint one classroom. The latest painting job, valued at more than $3,000. was done at an even-all cost of no more than $500 including the paint.

Installation of a complete new plumbing system, rebuilding of one side of the church, tiling of floors, many jobs of carpentry involving both construction and repair were undertaken by the men.

The job took on the fervor of a crusade as summer advanced. A number of men, idled by the(Singer sewing machine strike), gave twelve to fifteen hours per day, six days a week, to their volunteer labors. Several, employed elsewhere, gave up their two or three weeks of vacation time. Every day men came to help on the job after having put in a full day of factory labor.

Going Hard at Times

The going was hard at times, Father SIMONAITIS said. Days were boiling hot. The work was hard and heavy. But the VOLUNTEER CREW enjoyed it, and even Father Kasper swung a brush and pounded a hammer.

At the end of the job, the men celebrated with a quiet little stag party in the refurbished parish hall. "Thanks a million," Father Simonaitis told them. "You have done a great job. May God bless you for it."

Miss Roslyn Yurgelevich, 16-year-old Battin High School junior who studies art, painted a handsome mural on the wall of the parish hall stage. She was assisted by another Battinite, 15-year-old Dorothy Peskus.

The men on the all-summer job ranged from 20-year-old Ralph Kirvelevich to men in their sixties. They were Paul Kirvelevich, John(Zally) Zalapukes, Adam Naiva, Frank Hudziak, former Councilman Richard F. Barry, Jr., John Valleau, John Janchaitis, Frank Dudas, Steven Kewaisis, Joseph Keselits, Charles Gwalde, Thomas Shenowski, John Zvirblys, Casimir Chaponis, and Edward Hamilton.

Also, William Senkus, Alexander Balandis, James Bluse, Daniel Degutis, Joseph Wojtala, Thomas Miskinis, Anthony Barauskas, Cosmo Gatto, Anthony Matusevicius, Dominic Vainulevicius, William Kenser, John Raudonis, Alvin Hamilton, William Shimonis, Stanley Skeuter, Peter Kasilonis, John Webb, Stanley Liuga, Joseph Laucius and Anthony Aponavicius.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
October 20,1949

During previous and the following years, volunteer painting work was done by George Wycosky(Vitkauskas), the Noak brothers, Paul Kirvelevich and John Bogocius-Richards, both Trustees of the Church, and the Brothers Society members of the Bayway section of Elizabeth. They were John Barcas, Sr., Frank Gapch, Sr. and others from the Society.

Steeple-jack Joe Kemezis of Kearny, N.J., brother of Pastor, Rt.Rev.Michael G.Kemezis, Dr.Vito Kemezis and Veronica Kemezis, --- repaired the dangerous top of the church steeple when it needed emergency repairs.

John Morkis, retired from The Singer Co., is a Trustee of Sts.Peter and Paul Church and Treasurer of the Holy Name Society. He is the handy man and in charge of repairs and maintenance. Through Father Peter Zemeikis, the pastor, and the Parish Council, major problems are discussed at these meetings for final solutions and approval.

WS

JULY 1,1950

REV.JOHN STARKUS AND REV.ANTHONY P. KASPER

Curates of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian Church who were guest at dinner in recognition of their service.....

Approximately 350 persons attended a testimonial dinner in honor of Rev.John Starkus and Rev.Anthony P.Kasper, curates of St.Peter and St.Paul's (Lithuanian) R.C. Church, Saturday,July 1, 1950, at the parish hall, 216 Ripley Place,Elizabeth.

The gathering was sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St.Peter and St.Paul's parish, under the general chairmanship of Charles Grinchis. Both priests received many gifts from organizations and individuals.

Work of the two curates was praised by Rev.Joseph J.Simonaitis,pastor, who said they had lessened his burden to a great extent in carrying on the affairs of the parish. Other speakers were Rt.Rev.Msgr.John Balkunas, of Maspeth,L.I.; Rev. John Aleksunas, of Brooklyn; Rev.Michael G.Kemezis,of Bayonne; Rev.Dominick Pocus,of Kearny; Rev.Anthony Mazurka, of Chicago, and Adam Kasper,of Harrison, father of Father Kasper.

The two priests expressed their thanks for the gifts and their appreciation of the cooperation they said has been extended to them in church activities.

Members of church organizations prepared and served the dinner. Frank Witkus was toastmaster. A quartet consisting of Voclovas(Gene Baron) Baranauskas, Felix Puzinas, Aloysius Rudzitas and Vladas Veblauskas entertained with songs.Joseph Zilevicius, church organist, accompanied at the piano.

School children presented a short skit,under the direction of Sister Marion and Sister Marita.

Parish and other organizationswere represented officially as follows; Holy Rosary Society,Mrs.Barbara Bennett; St.Ann's Society,Mrs.Antonina Luksis; Third Order of St.Francis, Mrs. Elizabeth Lutwin; Immaculate Conception Sodality,Miss Ann Staboris; Parent-Teacher Association of the grammar school, Mrs. Bernice(Zack)Aktyl, St.Peter and St.Paul's Church Choir, William Senkus.

Apostles of Prayer,Mrs.Ageta Degutis; Perpetual Rosary, Mrs.Josephine Norbut; John "Shorty" Peck Post, 1075, Catholic War Veterans,Frank Grinchis;St.Peter and St.Paul's Society, Kazys Bernotas; St.Casimir Society, John (Bogocius)Richards; St.George Society, Stanley Gostautas.

Elizabeth Council 52, Knights of Lithuania, Charles Oskutis. Jersey City Council, 124, Knights of Lithuania, Charles Bason; Harrison-Kearny Council 90, K.of L.Joseph Kasper; Lithuanian Women's Citizens Club, Mrs. Mary Martin; Downtown World War Veterans, John Oskutis; Lithuanian Building and Loan Association, Michael Saliklis; Lithuanian Liberty Hall, James Selelonis; Committee for Aid to Lithuania, Ignacz (Jim) Budrecki, and Lithuanian Displaced Persons (D.P.) Society of Elizabeth, Mr. Rudzitas.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
July 3, 1950

REV. DR. JOHN STARKUS

Rev. ANTHONY P. KASPER
Spiritual Advisor

Father Anthony Kasper was associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) RC Church, Elizabeth, N.J., from June, 1946 to June, 1955, and served under the pastorate of Rev. Joseph Simonaitis and also served under the pastorate of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis.

Rev. Anthony Kasper was instrumental in forming the parish scout troop in March, 1953. A charter was granted by Union Council, BSA, on May 30, 1953, officially recognizing Troop #16. During 1953, cub scout, girl scout and brownie units were organized in the Lithuanian parish for the first time. To these were added a Junior Sodality (1954), Junior Knights of Lithuania (1957) and Explorer Scout Post #16 (December 1957).

(The story of Rev. Dr. John Starkus appears on the next page)

Rev. Dr.John A. Starkus

In Lithuanian

Gime 1895, July-Liepo-19. Rudamineje. Mokesi Marijampoles gimnazijoe. Seinu kunigu seminarijoje. Patrapilie dvasineje akademijoje. Kunigu isventintas 1917. December 1918.- 1920 m. Sunsku vikaras. 1922m. Romoje isigije baznytiniu teisiu daktaro laispni. Nuo 1922 m. dirbo pedagogini darba, buvo gimnazijoskapelionas, direkterius. 1936m. atvyko i JAV-bes. 1942 m. deste Marianapolio kolegijoje Thompson. CN. Veliau dirbo lietuviu parpijose. Parase Seinu gimnzijos isterija, lietuviu kalbos gramatika JAV lietuviams. Mire 1968, September -- 15,Bayonne,N.J.

REV. DR. JOHN STARKUS

By Bronius Kviklys-in his book, LIETUVOS BAZNYCIOS-Churches of Lithuania

English

Rev.Dr.John A. Starkus was an associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, from August, 1942 to June, 1953 and served during the pasterate of Rev.Joseph Simonaitis at the Lithuanian Church in Elizabeth.

In 1953, after the death of Father Simonaitis, Rev. Dr. John A.Starkus was transferred and became pastor of St.Michael (Lithuanian) Church in Bayonne,N.J. The amiable pastor,Reverend Dr.Starkus had two able assistants: Father Peter Zemeikis, a native of Elizabeth,N.J., and Father Albert Matulis, a native of Newark,N.J. Both assistants were later to become Administrators, Father Matulis was the first administrator and later,Father Zemeikis became the second administrator at Sts.Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) Church,Elizabeth.

An air-conditioning system was installed in the church, making St. Michael's the first in Bayonne to have a cooling system.

The parishioners honored their beloved pastor, Rev. Dr. John A.Starkus with a Testimonial Dinner in the parish hall on Sunday, November 26, 1967, commemorating his Golden Jubilee, 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the holy priesthood.

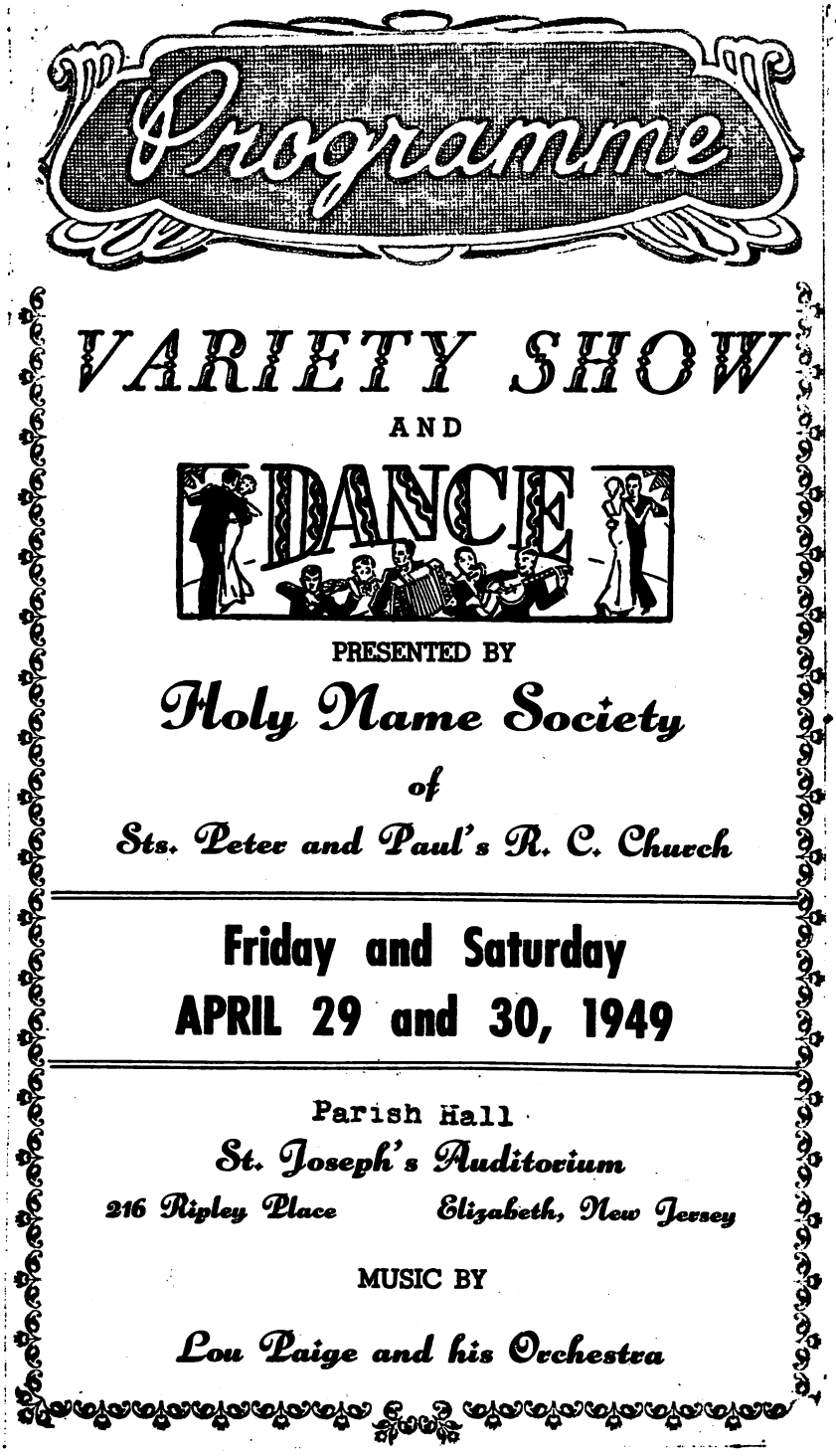
The 60th Anniversary of St.Michael's Church, Bayonne,N.J. was commemorated on Sunday, November 5th, 1967. At Mass the Honorary Arch-Priest was Rev.Dr.John A.Starkus;Celebrant was Rt. Rev.Msgr.Michael G.Kemezis; Deacon, Rev.Robert Brozowski; Sub-Deacon, Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas;Guest Preacher,Rev.John Scharnus; Master of Ceremonies, Rev.Peter F.Zemeikis and Rev.Albert J.Matulis. At the banquet, Master of Ceremonies was Rev.Dominic Pocus.

Rev.Dr.John A. Starkus, a beloved pastor of St.Michael's Church,Bayonne, died September 15,1968. A silent period of mourning was observed for a great priest.

* Other pastors who served St.Michael's Church in Bayonne,N.J. were:Rev.M.Sedvydis,First Pastor;Rev.A.Shukis,Rev.E.Budrevicius,Rev.A. Jusaitis,Rev.F.Saurusaitis,Rev.P.Vanagas,Rev.L.Voicekauskas,Rev.J. Petraitis,Rev.S.Stonis,Rev.M.Kemezis,and including Rev.Dr.John Starkus, and the present pastor.Rev.Albert J.Matulis, who helped to build a new St.Michael's Church and social hall for the parishioners of the church in Bayonne,N.J.,even the the uncertain economic conditions prevailed in the United States during the past years and including 1983.

Source:St.Michael's Church,60th Anniversary Booklet-1967 WS

* and Rev.Vincent Svirnelis,also a pastor.



HOLY NAME NEWS

Holy Name Society sponsored Variety Show pleases audiences.

"Senoritas" a big hit.

The first Variety Show presented by our Holy Name Society proved to be a success. Running for two evenings it was attended by a good number of people. The hour long show was very favorably received by the audience.

A great big thanks is due the director of the Show, Mr. Anthony "Spike" Pinkian. We are deeply appreciative of the great work he expended to put the Show over in such grand style. Thanks a million.

Local and invited talent participated. The six Senoritas took the place by storm with their suave rendition of the best in "feminine" choreography. Meet the fair ones: John Zally, F. Hudziak, Charlie Gwaldo, Bill Senkus, Joe Kesolits and Charlie Kakstis. Ah yes, the fairest of the fair. Caroline Miskinis gave her usual brilliant performance. Moe Zabita did justice to that sailor on leave. George Butkus, Bill Horbacz, Joe Kasey and John Naha were swell in their Radio skit. Carol Joan Mattis favored us with a fine dance specialty, as did Ann Domenico and Sam Naha. We were thrilled by the rich tones of Syl Brazinski's voice as he sang his numbers. The visiting talent which included: Dick Neyen, Jimmy Courtney and Michael Russo and Ruth Evans. All did splendidly.

Mr. John Simaitis did a good job as General Chairman of the Show. He was ably assisted by John Glogorski, Daniel Degutis, Al Lasko, Anthony Klebby, Joe Degutis, Duke Dembroski, Joe Wojtala and Joe Kasolits. Hats off to these men for their excellent work. Thanks also to the men who served the refreshments: Al Lasco, Joe Kesolits, Frank Hudziak, Stanley Skueter, Charles Gwaldo and Jim Bluse. (QUEEN'S PAGE-MAY 1949)

Variety Show

and

Dance

PRESENTED BY

Holy Name Society

OF

Sts. Peter and Paul's R. C. Church

Friday and Saturday

NOVEMBER 10 and 11, 1950

PARISH HALL

216 Ripley Place *Elizabeth, New Jersey*

Music By

FRANK JUZAITIS AND HIS ORCHESTRA

General Chairman
JOHN A. VALLEAU

Variety Show Director
CHARLES OSKUTIS

GENERAL COMMITTEE

FRANK HUDZAK
AL LASCO
ADAM NAIVA
VICTOR BRAZINSKI
JOSEPH KESOLITS
WALTER STANKAVAGE
ANTHONY MATUSEVICIUS
JOHN PARKER
RICHARD BARRY

MASTER OF CEREMONIES-CHARLES OSKUTIS

PROGRAM
FIRST PART

Opening Number — "Smile, Darn You Smile"

1. "Carolina in the Morning"....Frank Hudzak
2. "Tuck Me to Sleep"....Artie Hopp
3. "Darkness on the Delta"....Buffy Decker
4. "Frankie and Johnny"....Charles Oskutis

SECOND PART

1. Slim Yankin, M. C. ....."Robert E. Lee"
2. Hart Sisters — Television Stars.....Novelty Dancing
3. June Raymond .....Egyptian
4. Johnny Case .....Joy and Magic
5. Christine Brown .....Toe Dancer
6. Slim Yankin—Impersonating Sally Rand "You Made Me Love You"
7. June Raymond .....Acrobatic Stunts
8. Christine Brown .....Hawaiian Dance
9. Johnny Case ....."Anything Goes"
10. Hart Sisters.....Thrilling Apache Dance

RT.REV.MONSIGNOR MICHAEL G.KEMEZIS-THE FOURTH PASTOR
STS.PETER AND PAUL(LITHUANIAN) R.C.CHURCH

Monsignor Michael G.Kemezis was born in Newark and was graduated from Kearny High School. He received bacheler and master of arts degrees from Seton Hall University,South Orange,N.J.

After theological training at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, he was ordained June 10,1933, by the late Archbishop Thomas J.Walsh of Newark.

His first assignment was as associate pastor of St.Mary's Church, Paterson. In 1935, Msgr.Kemezis was transferred to Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) Church in Elizabeth. He remained here as an assistant pastor until 1939.

The Monsignor, who reorganized K.of L. Council 52,Elizabeth, in 1937, was a staunch supporter of the Knights of Lithuania.

Rt.Rev.Msgr.

Michael G.Kemezis

Msgr.Kemezis' accomplishments as pastor of the Elizabeth, N.J. Church for more than 15 years included establishment of the Miraculous Medal Novena, renovation and refurbishing of the church, repair of the convent and remodeling of the parish hall.

Father than was administrator of St.Ann's Church(Lithuanian), (since closed) in Jersey City, until 1941, when he waa named pastor of St.Michael's Church, Bayonne.

Rev.Kemezis was appointed to the Elizabeth pasterate on June 28,1953, succeeding the late Rev.Joseph Simonaitis. He was elevated to the domestic prelacy in 1959 by the late Pope John XXIII.

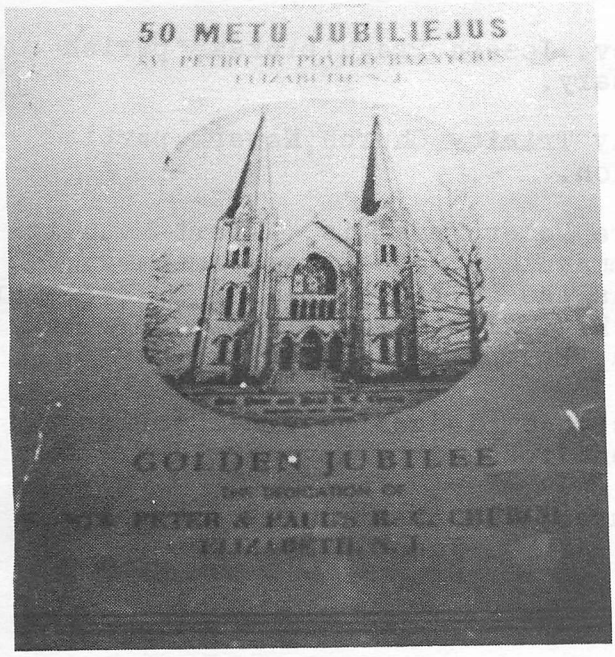
50th Anniversary of the Parish. 1910-1960

The Monsignor's message was: "On this occasion, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the dedication of our Church, I extend my grateful thanks to the faithful parishioners and friends, who helped erect our magnificent church, and who through the years,have generously supported it."

After the death of Msgr.Kemezis on Jan.3,1969, a High Requiem Mass was concelebrated by representatives of all Lithuanian parishes in the Archdioceses of Newark and New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn,N.Y.

Source-Knights of Lithuania
"VYTIS" Magazine, 1969

RT. REV. MSGR. MICHAEL G. KEMEZIS
STS. PETER & PAUL'S PARISH
Elizabeth, New Jersey



DEC. 1953

Lithuanian Church Displays Creche

A creche depicting the Nativity scene, which has been set up in the yard of St. Peter and St. Paul's Lithuanian Church, 211 Ripley place, was dedicated last night by Rev. Michael G. Kemezis, pastor.

The scene, suggested by Father Kemezis, contains life size figures and was erected to impress parishioners with the thought of keeping Christ in Christmas, according to the pastor.

During the dedication service Father Kemezis remarked that the entire pageant "represents in a graphic way the full Christian ideal of Christmas."

"We celebrate the birth of the savior at Christmas," Father Kemezis said, "but even from his birth the shadow of the cross was to be a constant reminder of the real purpose of his coming into the world. Christ was born to die for the salvation of all mankind. Our crib shows how inseparable Calvary is from Bethlehem."

The creche at St. Peter and St. Paul's is unusual in that it has been erected in front of a large wooden cross, some 25 feet high. The cross is an authentic reproduction of an ancient Lithuanian wayside cross that dotted the Lithuanian countryside for centuries.

The crib was erected by volunteers from the congregation under direction of Father Kemezis. The figures in the scene have been treated with a special finish to withstand the elements.

The scene is particularly striking at night when it is illuminated with multicolored lights, crowned by a large star at the pinnacle of the cross.

Father Kemezis announced last night that the newly installed chimes will play carols on Christmas Eve from 11 P. M. until the start of the midnight mass. Christmas day masses will be offered every hour starting at 6 A. M. and continuing [illegible]

June, 1954

600 Join in March Imploring Lithuanian Independence

Nearly 600 parishioners of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian R.C. Church(RipleyPlace-Elizabeth,N.J.)marched in a candlelight procession through the downtown section of Elizabeth last night in a plea to Our Lady of Fatima for the restoration of Lithuania's independence.

The procession marked the final phase of a three-day Marian Year demonstration centered ona statue of Our Lady of Fatima which has been at the church since Sunday.

The statue,over 5 feet in height and handcarved from a solid block of oak, was borne by men of the Holy Name Society, who also served as a guard ofhonor. Rev.Michael G.Kemezis, the pastor, who arranged the celebration, walked immediately in front of the statue, followed by members of all the parish organizations.

The line of march was from the church along Ripley Pl.to First St., up First St., to Inslee pl., thence to Third St., and back to the church. It had been planned to have everyone in the line of march carry candles, but because of threatening weather only the altar boys, Girl Scouts and young women of the Sodality carried them.

During the procession, the choir, directed by Joseph Zilegicius, sang traditional Lithuanian hymns in honor of the Virgin Mary. The church bells toiled from the time the parishioners left the church until they returned.

The evening program began with solemn vespers celebrated by Rev.Joseph Aleksiunas, pastorof Our Lady Queen of Angeles Church, Brooklyn. Rev.Dominic Pocus of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Harrison, was deacon and Rev. Vincent Svirnelis of Livingston was subdeacon.

Rev.John A. Starkus of Bayonne, former parish administrator, preached the sermon, in which he declared that peace will come to the world only when men accept Christ's teachings.

Following the procession, Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, parish assistant, led recitation of the Rosary.

Rt.Rev.Ignas Kelmelis of Holy Trinity Church,Newark,participated in the services and procession.

Serving as cross bearers were Peter Zemeikis, Albert Matulis and Raymond Thompson, students at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington. (Later Rev.Peter Zemeikis was to become pastor of St.Peter and St.Paul's Church,Elizabeth, and Rev. Albert Matulis was to become pastor of St.Michael's Church, Bayonne,N.J.)

More than 200 parishioners signed pledges tojoin the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, a movement founded by Rev.Harold V. Colgan , formerly of Elizabeth.

Source: Elizabeth Daily Journal
June 30,1954

STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C. CHURCH

50th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE

ELIZABETH, N.J.

1910-1960 **COMMITTEE** 1910-1960

Front Row-- Rev.Juozas Pragulbickas, Walter Stancavage, Rt.Rev.Michael G.Kemezis, John(Bagocius)Richards, Rev.Vladas Karalevicius.

Second Row--Justina Bunes,Mildred(Luksis) Zalapukes, Bernice(Zack)Aktyl, Mary Martin, Isabel Luksis, Josephine Norbut, Barbara Bernet.

Third Row--Agotha Degutis,Ruth(Laucius)Brazinski, Mary(Motecus) Mackelis, Anne Baronas

Fourth Row--Frank Kudulis, Mary Garbacauskas, Algirdas Kacinauskas

STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C.CHURCH

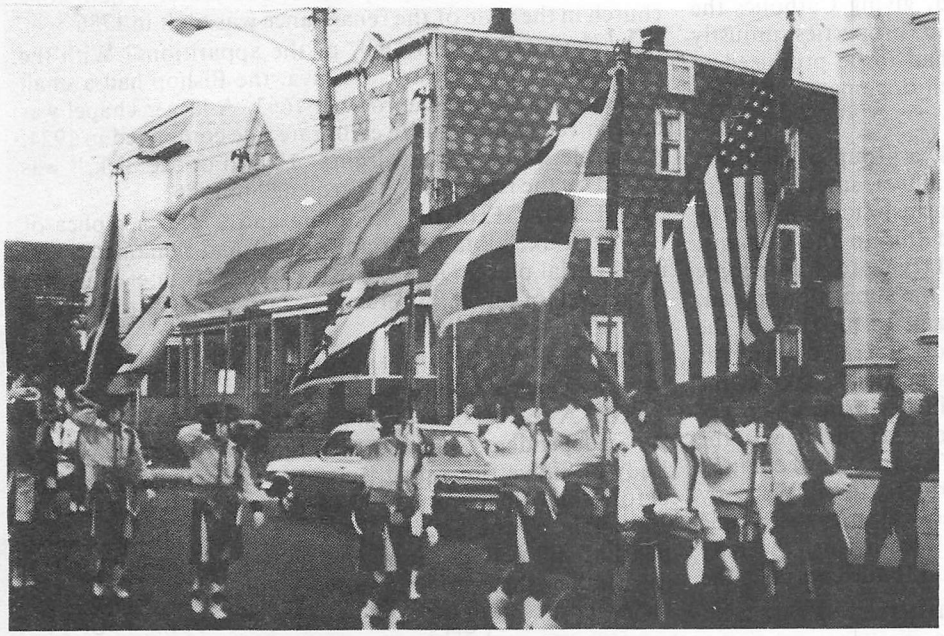
50th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE

1910-1960 PARISH CHOIR ELIZABETH, N.J.

Front Row- Antanas Fidleris, Frank Kudulis, Julia(Bruzgis) Peskus, Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael G.Kemezis, Algirdas Kacanauskas, Julius Veblaitis, Algirdas Andziulis.

Second Row- Irene Veblaitis, Ona Budnikas, _ _ _ _ _ _ ? Helen Charciaz, Marion(Wycosky)Dudis, Gene Baranauskas, Irene _ _ _ _ ? Edna Mack, Frances(Buzis)Alexander, ? Bruzieniene, Ona Skurvydiene.

Third Row- George Pranskietis, Stanley Valatka, Alexander Balandis, Joseph Maujelis, James Stokas, William Senkus, _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _, Juozas Stagniunas, Pranas Dapkus, Anthony Markevich.



Annual HOLY NAME SOCIETY

PARADE IN OCTOBER

Leading the parade is-
Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael G. Kemezis, Pastor, of Sts. Peter and Paul R.C.Church

Left to right-
Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas
Rev.Vincent Svirnelis
and
Rev.Vladas Karalevicius

Along the street routes, spectators applauded and viewed the bands and the marchers.

Due to high cost of hiring bands by each parish HNS, therefore, the Union County Federation of Holy Name Societies, CALLED OFF the parades.

Sts.Peter and Paul HNS continues to function. Members receive Holy Communion every second Sunday at the 8 A.M. Mass and followed with a meeting in the parish hall. Refreshments is served.

The Federation's Nocturnal Adoration-1st Fridays. Members attend the monthly services every first Fridays at St.John the Apostle R.C. Church in Linden-Clark,N.J. For years the services were conducted previously in St.Mary's Church, Elizabeth.

Several members from St.Peter and Paul HNS received certificates for perfect attendance.

— Our Lady of Siluva —

A Reprint

"KEEPING THE FAITH" did not come easy for Lithuanians. Though they had become Catholic about 1251, when the wave of Protestantism swept over Europe three hundred years later their nobles first became Lutherans in 1532, only to accept Calvinism in 1551. The peasants remained Catholic.

THE LITTLE TOWN of Siluva built its first Catholic church in 1457 and named it in honor of the Nativity of Mary. September 8, Our Lady's birthday, became a festival day in Siluva and people from all over the country flocked there. On their coming to power, the Calvinists appropriated everything Catholic. By 1570, there was no longer a Catholic church in Siluva. The last pastor, before leaving, buried a favorite image of the Madonna and Child, a few vestments and some important documents in a metal-covered oak chest, about a half mile from his church, near a huge rock.

IN 1588 a new statute was passed, giving Catholics the right to repossess churches and properties unjustly taken from them, but documents had to be produced to prove ownership. In Siluva, no such documents could be produced.

ON A HOT summer day in 1608, a group of children, playing around a huge rock in Siluva, saw a beautiful weeping lady, with a child in her arms, standing on the rock. One of the children reported this to the Calvinist teacher, who claimed it was the devil trying to draw people away from Calvinism. The rumor of the apparition spread, and on the next day many people came to the rock of the apparition, where the Calvinist teacher berated them for listening to the tales of children. As he was speaking, the same weeping lady with the child in her arms again appeared, frightening everyone. In spite of his fright, the Calvinist teacher asked the lady, "Why are you weeping?" In sad tones the lady answered, "Formerly in this place my Son was adored and honored, but now all that the people do is seed and cultivate the land." With this, the lady vanished. Whatever the Calvinists said to the contrary, the people, led by a blind old man, believed it was the Blessed Virgin with her Son in her arms.

REPOSSESSING the property where the apparitions took place was impossible without documents. When the same old blind man, who had been so convinced the apparition was the Virgin and Child, heard this, he recalled the actions of the last Catholic pastor. Asked if he knew the location of the buried treasure, he was taken to the vicinity of the rock of the apparitions, where his blindness left him. Now, able to see, he pointed out the place to dig, and the treasure was recovered.

AFTER TEN YEARS of court battles, the Tribunal at Vilnius decided in favor of the Catholics in 1622. The Calvinists had to return all they had appropriated. Two years later the new pastor built a church, which soon proved too small for all the people who came to render homage to the Mother of God. A much larger church was built, which served its purpose for 140 years. A new stone church in the style of the renaissance was built in 1786.

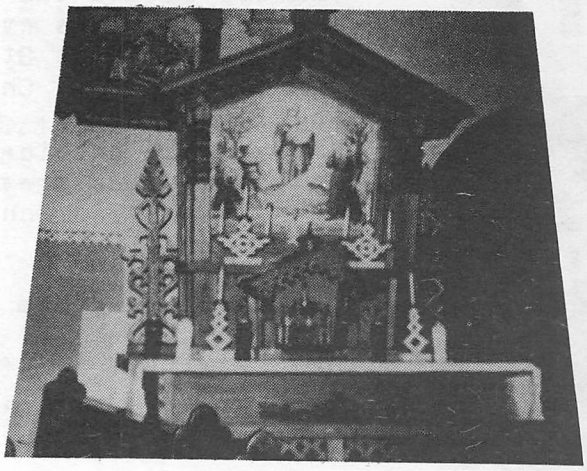
WHAT OF THE ROCK of the apparitions? With the influx of pilgrims to Siluva, the Bishop had a small chapel built around the rock in 1663. A larger chapel was built in 1818, and a more elaborate one completed in 1924. A marble statue of the Virgin, "Health of the Sick," was placed on the rock itself and crowned in 1886.

THE IMAGE of the Madonna and Child (a replica of St. Luke's Madonna and Child) had remained intact in its burial place. On its rediscovery it was later placed in the church of Siluva, where many favors were attributed to it.

THE LOCAL Bishops approved the cult, and Pius VI in 1775 gave it his approval.

FOR A FEW brief years, 1918-1940, Lithuania was independent, during which time the devotion to Our Lady of Siluva flourished. In spite of Russian occupation, before that time, from 1795 to the end of World War I, and again by the Soviets from 1940 to the present time, pilgrims still defy government regulations and harassment to visit their shrine of Our Lady of Siluva.

Source Knights of Lithuania Magazine "VYTIS" July 1982 From Ann Voveris - C-17



The "SILUVA" Altar was erected at Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) Church Elizabeth, N.J., by the pastor Rev. Michael G. Kemezis, later elevated to Rt. Rev. Msgr. Kemezis. The altar contained a piece of the rock on which Our Lady appeared in Siluva, Lithuania in 1608, which was many years before Fatima, Portugal, acquired international fame.

Rev. Joseph Simonaitis, former pastor, secured this small rock while visiting Lithuania. This rock is now encased at the Siluva Altar.

Msgr. Kemezis, In Senate Role, Marks Lithuania Milestone

MSGR. KEMEZIS

WASHINGTON—Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's R.C. Church, Elizabeth, N.J., delivered the invocation to open yesterday's session of the U.S. Senate.

The Elizabeth clergyman's appearance was in conjunction with the 44th anniversary of the restoration of independence of Lithuania, now an iron curtain country.

The anniversary is celebrated today but the monsignor's appearance was moved forward a day because the Senate is not convening today.

Msgr. Kemezis, whose parish is predominately Lithuanian, arrived here late Wednesday to participate in the anniversary ceremonies. His invocation, a plea for Lithuania's liberation, was transmitted in the Lithuanian language over the Voice of America network, although he addressed the Senate in English.

The invocation read, in part: "Our divine majesty, Lord and God, look down we beseech Thee, upon this august gathering of our senators. . . and hear our suppliant plea. O God, how long, how long is our siter nation, Lithuania, to suffer?

"We realize that Thou chastiseth those whom Thou lovest. And it will always be our prayer. 'Not our will, but Thine, be done. . .'

"Give our Lithuanian brethren courage and hope so that by their suffering and sacrifice, they may gain Thy favor . . . so that once more they may live as free men in a world created by Thee. . ."

To allow Msgr. Kemezis to appear, Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, the Senate's chaplain, stepped aside. Similar ceremonies also were conducted in the House of Representatives.

The monsignor said he, members of the Lithuanian Embassy and others will meet with Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson tonight. Msgr. Kemezis expects to return to his Elizabeth parish tomorrow. His participation in the Senate proceedings was arranged by the Lithuanian-American Information Center in New York.

Day Proclaimed

In Elizabeth Mayor Steven J. Bercik has designated today as "Republic of Lithuania Day."

In a proclamation he noted that "this nation has suffered unjust oppression, and the present occupation by the Soviet Union proves to the world that it rejects the natural rights of the Lithuanian peoples to freedom."

Mayor Bercik extended to citizens of Lithuanian origin and descent his personal greetings.

ELIZABETH PASTOR AT CAPITOL: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis, pastor of St. Peter and St. Paul's R.C. Church, right, talks with Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont), Senate majority leader, center, and Rev. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, Senate chaplain. Msgr. Kemezis delivered invocation opening Senate session yesterday in conjunction with 44th anniversary of restoration of Lithuanian independence. (AP Wirephoto)

February 16,1962

44th

Anniversary

Rev. Vladas Karalevičius

In Lithuanian-

Kun.Vladas Karalevicius,Gime October 30, 1911 in Bayonne,N.J. Baiges marijonu gimnazija Marijampoleje ir Vilkaviskio kunigu Seminarija.

Kunigu isventintas June 13,1937 Vilkaviskyje. 1937-1944 m. Kybartu gimnazijos kepelienas. 1944 pasitrauke i Vokietija.

Aptarnavo gelezinkelieciu darba stevyklas Silezijoje, gyvene Laubane. Regene(Bavarijoje).

1945-1946 m.deste anglu kalba Regensburge, veliau Schweinfurte liet. gimnazijose.. Vikarave 1946-1955. Bayonne,N.J.

1955-1967 m, Elizabeth,N.J.

1968-1974m. Jersey City parapijos klebonas. 1974 del nesveikates Newarke vyskupe isleistas i pensija. Gyvena Newark,N.J. Mire June, 1982.(By Bronius Kviklys,"LIETUVOS BAZNYCIOS- Churches of Lithuania.)

In English

Father Vladas Karalevicius, was associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) Church, Elizabeth,N.J.,from October, 1955 to September, 1967, and served under the pastorate of the late Rt.Rev.Michael G.Kemezis, after leaving St.Michael's Lithuanian Church in Bayonne,N.J., as Assistant Pastor from 1946 to 1955.

Father Karalevicius believed in having as many youth organizations as possible in the parish, such as Catholic Youth Organization(CYO)and other worth while club activities for the present generation.

Of particular interest, Father Karalevicius served as moderator for Elizabeth Junior Knights of Lithuania, Council 52 during the years from 1957 to 1967. His young club members were from the 7th and 8th Grades of Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School and from the local high schools.

Years later, Father Karel, as he was effectionately known by the parishioners and friends, and as Administrator of St.Ann 's Lithuanian Church in Jersey City, N.J., turned out to be one of the saddest periods of his life. Due to the lack of funding and diminishing attendance of parishioners, the Newark Archdiocese closed St.Ann 's parish and turned it over to a non-Lithuanian people for their church services. At one time Sts.Peter and Paul Church parishioners made special collections and donations to help St.Ann 's Church. Rev.Father Karalevicius,Pastor, due to illness,was pensioned.

Father Karel-Karalevicius, retired, and was transferred to the Holy Trinity Church in Newark,N.J., and made his residence at the rectory on Adams Street, of which Monsigner John Scharnus is the Pastor.

Rev.Vladas Karalevicius, a great Lithuanian patriot and a Knights of Lithuania member and benefactor died in June, 1982, and was buried at the Cemetery of Holy Cross, North Arlington,N.J.

Rev. Vladas Karalevicius, an assistant at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, served as moderator for Elizabeth Junior K. of L. Council 52 during the years from 1957 to 1967. His young club members were from the 7 & 8 Grades of Sts. Peter and Paul Grammar School and from the local high schools. He was a great Lithuanian patriot and a K. of L. benefactor.

FOURTH NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY DISTRICT JUNIOR K of L RALLY

More than 150 youngsters, together with their spiritual directors, adult counselors and guests, attended the Fourth Annual Rally of the Junior Knights of Lithuania, New York-New Jersey District on Sunday, April 29, 1962 at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Elizabeth, N. J. Local Council 52 was the host. Other councils participating included Kearny, Bayonne and Newark, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York City.

Miss Mary Motecus, Second Vice-President of the District as well as counselor to the Elizabeth group and General Chairman of the Rally, called the meeting to order. Rev. Vladas Karalevičius, Assitant Pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul and Spiritual Director of Council 52, gave the invocation. Miss Ann Gwaldis, President of the high school group at Sts. Peter and Paul, presided at the meeting. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis, Pastor, welcomed the Junior Knights to Elizabeth, reminding them to be proud of their Lithuanian heritage and to pattern their lives after the patron of the organization, St. Casimir of Lithuania. Miss Helen Shields of Philadelphia, Vice President of the Supreme Council, addressed the group and introduced Mr. Anthony B. Mazeika, Jr. of Ozone Park, N. Y., who related his experiences while associated with the Junior group and how it helped him to make the transition into the Regular Council and take an active and important part in its affairs. Each council then presented its annual report covering activities held and plans for the coming season.

Mr. Jack J. Stukas of Hillside, N.J., director of the weekly radio program, "Memories of Lithuania," showed films he had taken while in Lithuania recently, thus giving the Juniors a current picture of their forefathers' land, which is presently under Russian domination.

Miss Barbara Drescher, Vice President of the Elizabeth high school group, was Mistress of Ceremonies of the Variety Program which followed.

Miss Motecus presented awards to Neryrus Jarmas of Elizabeth, First Prize, and to John Miskewitz of Bayonne, Second Prize for their winning entries in the Miniature Lithuanian Wayside Cross contest. The winners in the girls' contest, which consisted of embroidering Lithuanian weaving designs on aprons were as follows: First Prize - Paula Gaubas, Newark; Second Prize - Beata Fidleris, Elizabeth; Third Prize - Audrey Jarmas, Elizabeth; and Fourth Prize - Frances Radziewicz, Kearny.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Eugene Wassel, Spiritual Director of the Philadelphia council. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed. Services were conducted by Rev. Peter Zemeikis, Spiritual Director of the District and Assistant Pastor at St. Michael's, Bayonne. Veneration of the Siluva stone relic followed.

A banquet and dance closed the day's activities. Members of the Immaculate Conception Sodality served as waitresses at dinner. Walter Sharon, President of the Junior Council in Newark, extended an invitation to hold the 1963 Rally in Newark.

Mary Motecus is now Mrs. Mary Mackelis, wife of Mr. Vincent Mackelis

Dear Friends of Lithuania:

I wish I could welcome you not only to the Lithuanian Day at the New York World's Fair, but to the Lithuanian Pavilion as well. In 1939 Lithuania participated in the New York World's Fair as an independent state, and I was privileged to welcome many of you to the Lithuanian Pavilion as well as to the Lithuanian Day.

Because of the Soviet Russian occupation and brutal oppression, Lithuania cannot participate as a free nation in the 1964-65 World's Fair. Nevertheless, the Soviet occupant is powerless to prevent the American friends of Lithuania from marking her participation in spirit with an impressive Lithuanian Day, which shall be observed at the World's Fair on August 23, 1964.

I pay tribute to the Lithuanian Committee for the World's Fair in 1964-65, to the New York Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce, and to all participants in the Lithuanian Day program. Their efforts will surely again remind the Free World that in the age when colonial peoples in the world are being freed, seven-centuries-old Lithuania is enslaved by a new colonial empire — Soviet Russia.

Lithuania no less than any country in Africa or Asia has the right to freedom.

Jonas Budrys
Consul General of Lithuania

Come to

Lithuania Day

at the World's Fair, in New York

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1964

PROGRAM

12:00 Noon - WREATH LAYING CEREMONIES at the Lithuanian Wayside Cross, Meditation Lane and Avenue of Africa.

12:30 p.m. - HOLY MASS in the Singer Bowl.

1:30 p.m. - PARADE of 1400 Lithuanian Choristers and 700 Folk Dancers into the Singer Bowl.

2:00 p.m. - LITH. SONG & DANCE FESTIVAL in the Singer Bowl. Mistress of Ceremonies – Ruta Lee (Kilmonyte) of Hollywood, Calif.

LITHUANIAN MISS UNION COUNTY,N.J.

Source-New York Daily News-August 24,1964

Lithuanian Irene Stankunas-Stanton Silva of Elizabeth,N.J. represented as MISS UNION COUNTY,N.J. at the fair

Fair Echoes Lithuania Freedom Cry

(NEWS foto by John Campbell)

Actress Ruta Lee gets flowers from Larraine Wytenus (l.), 10, and sister, Christine, 11, as Irene Stanton (r.), Miss Union County, N.J., watches at Lithuanian Day ceremony.

By RICHARD MATHIEU

Thousands of folk dancers and singers took over the World's Fair yesterday to celebrate Lithuania Day. A somber wreath-laying ceremony at the site of the Lithuanian Wayside Cross at the fair started the day.

The cross honors all those who have died fighting for the freedom of Lithuania.

Lithuanian Bishop Vincent Brizgys said Mass immediately after the wreath-laying. After Mass, 1,400 singers and 700 folk dancers paraded to the Singer Bowl.

Ruta is Guiding Star

Actress Ruta Lee, who recently brought her grandmother from behind the Iron Curtain, was master of ceremonies.

Joseph Kajeckas, charge d' affaires of Lithuania in Washington, drew applause when he said: "We meet here today to honor the thousands of valiant Lithuanians who have died in the just cause of freedom, and also to demonstrate that the desire of Lithuanians to be free and independent again continues to burn with undiminished strength."

Sen. Kenneth B. Keating also spoke to the packed Singer Bowl crowd, the largest ever to attend an event in the bowl. He drew a cheer by ending his speech in Lithuanian. He said: "Long live free Lithuania."

The chairman of the Lithuanian Committee was Dr.Jack J.Stukas.

TIMES 8/24/64

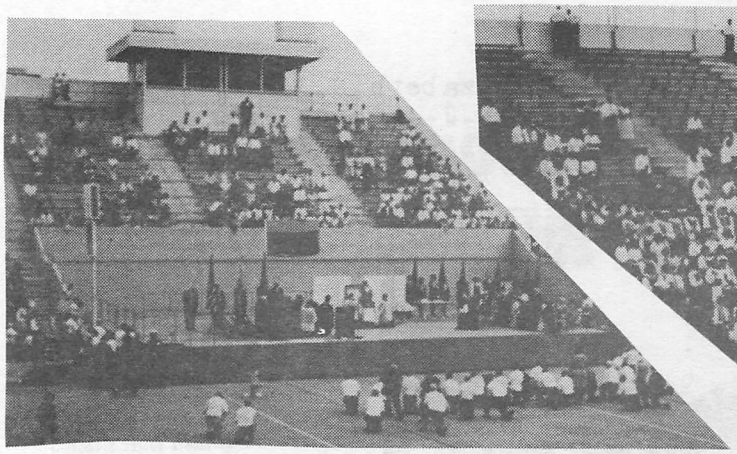
LITHUANIA DAY

The 16,000-seat Singer Bowl was filled for the first time yesterday as Lithuania Day was celebrated with speeches, songs and dances. It was an occasion of both sadness and gaiety. Americans of Lithuanian xetraction were reminded that their country was free and had its own pavilion at the time of the 1939-'40 Fair, only to be swallowed up later by Soviet Russia. But sober thoughts were put aside when the arena filled with 800 young men and women in native costumes who demonstrated Lithuanian dances. Ruta Lee Kilmonis, the young screen actress who recently succeeded in freeing her grandmother from behind the Iron Curtain, was given an ovation when she took over as mistress of ceremonies. 6

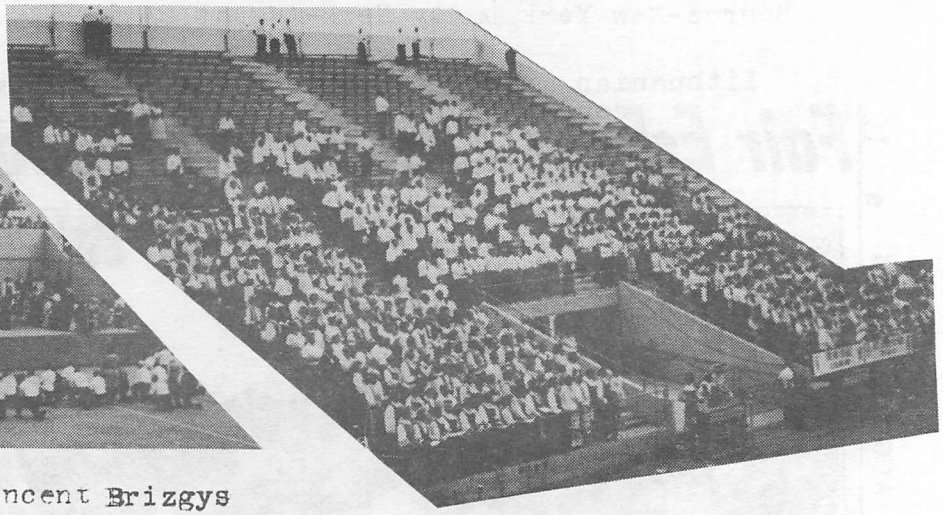
Source New York Times Aug.24,1964

A somber wreath-laying ceremony at the site of the Lithuanian Waycross at the fair started the day(August 23,1964).

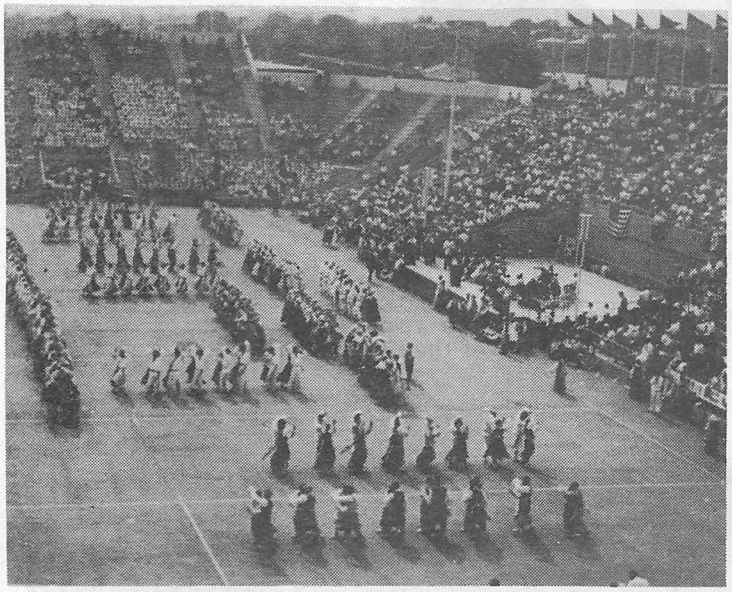
AUGUST 23, 1964- NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR-LITHUANIAN DAY



Lithuanian Bishop Vincent Brizgys said Mass immediately after the wreath-laying -

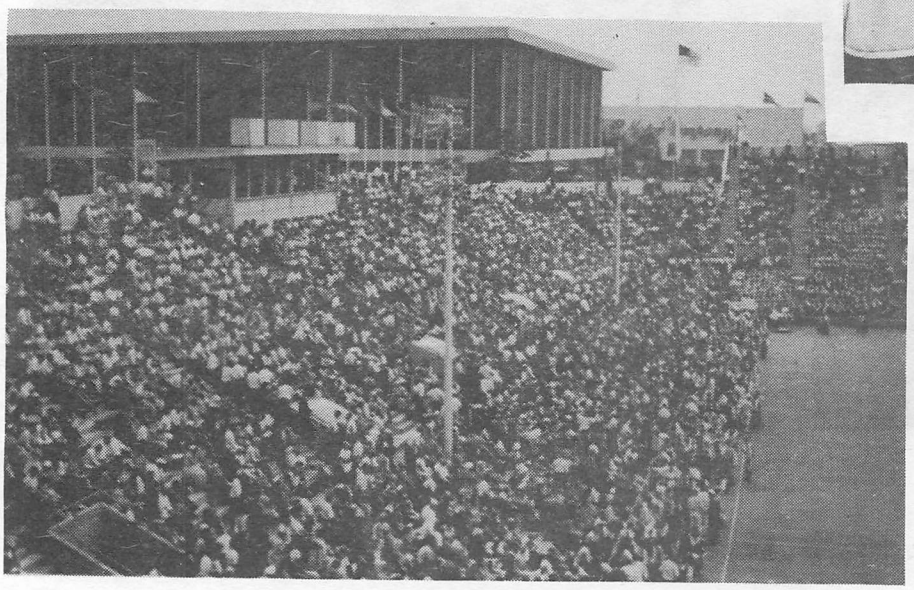


Lithuanian Church Choirs sang at the New York World's Fair,



Lithuanians perform popular Folk Dances before enthusiastic crowd.

LITHUANIAN GIRLS FROM ELIZABETH, NJ



Newspapers reported Lithuanians and Lithuanian-Lithuanians were the only group to fill the Singer Bowl to capacity on "LITHUANIAN DAY", August 23, 1964.

Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) Parish
PROGRAM

23rd ANNUAL RALLY

of the

NEW YORK - NEW JERSEY
LITHUANIAN PARISH SODALITIES

1 - 2 PM REGISTRATION

2 PM CALL TO ORDER by Miss Ruth Ann Laucius, Chairlady

a. National Anthem
b. Lietuvos Himnas
c. Hymn: "For Christ the King"

INVOCATION

Rev. Vladas Karalevicius, Spiritual Director
Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Sodalities
Elizabeth, New Jersey

GREETINGS

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis, Pastor
Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish
Rev. Raymond F. Thompson, Spiritual Director
New York - New Jersey Lithuanian Parish Sodalities

CONVENTION BUSINESS

a. Reading of Minutes
b. Roll Call
c. Sodality Spiritual Reports
d. New Business

GUEST SPEAKER

Miss Mary I. DiFonzo
Executive Secretary
New York Archdiocesan Federation of Sodalities of Our Lady

PRAYER

Sunday, May 23,1965 Elizabeth,N.J.
PROGRAM

4:30 PM PROCESSION — Recitation of the Rosary

Queen — Miss Lorraine Kavaliauskas

Maid of Honor — Miss Judith Savonis

Shepherdess — Miss Dianne Balchunas

Faith — Miss Susan Savonis

Hope — Miss Mary Ann Degutis

Charity — Miss Grazina Fidleris

Crown Bearer — Miss Denise Christensen

CORONATION CEREMONIES

a. Hymns: "Sveika Marija"
"Bring Flowers of the Rarest"

b. Coronation

c. Reception of New Members

d. Sermon . . . Rev Peter Zemeikis
Assistant Pastor
St. Michael's Parish
Bayonne, New Jersey

e. Benediction and Act of Consecration —
Rev. Raymond F. Thompson

6:00 PM DINNER - DANCE

Lithuanian Liberty Hall

ACT OF CONSECRATION

Most Holy Mary / Virgin Mother of God / I, (mention own name) most unworthy though I am to be thy servant / yet touched by thy motherly care for me / and longing to serve thee / do / in the presence of my guardian angel / and all the court of heaven / choose thee this day to be my Queen / my Advocate / and my Mother. / And I firmly propose / to serve thee ever more myself / and do what I can / that all may render faithful service to thee.

Sunday, May 6, 1956

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SODALITY

ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

Rev. V. Karalevicius, Spiritual Advisor

VERONICA KREZONIS ..... Prefect

ANN MITCHELL-Matalavich Vice Prefect

LORRAINE STABORIS ..... Secretary

MARY MOTECUS-Mackelis Treasurer

Host Sodalities

1st — 1943	Transfiguration, Maspeth, L.I.
2nd — 1944	Annunciation, Brooklyn, N.Y.
3rd — 1945	St. George's, Brooklyn, N.Y.
4th — 1946	Sts. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth, N.J.
5th — 1947	Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearney, N.J.
6th — 1948	Transfiguration, Maspeth, L.I.
7th — 1949	St. Michael's, Bayonne, N.J.
8th — 1950	Queen of Angels, Brooklyn, N.Y.
9th — 1951	Holy Trinity, Newark, N.J.
10th — 1952	Annunciation, Brooklyn, N.Y.
11th — 1953	St. Ann's, Jersey City, N.J.
12th — 1954	St. Casimir's Paterson, N.J.
13th — 1955	St. George's, Brooklyn, N.Y.
14th — 1956	Sts. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth, N.J.
15th — 1957	Our Lady of Sorrows, Kearney, N.J.
16th — 1958	Transfiguration, Maspeth, L.I.
17th — 1959	St. Michael's, Bayonne, N.J.
18th — 1960	Queen of Angels, Brooklyn, N.J.
19th — 1961	Holy Trinity, Newark, N.J.
20th — 1962	St. Ann's, Jersey City, N.J.
21st — 1963	Annunciation, Brooklyn, N.Y.
22nd — 1964	St. George's, Brooklyn, N.Y.
23rd — 1965	Sts. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth, N.J.

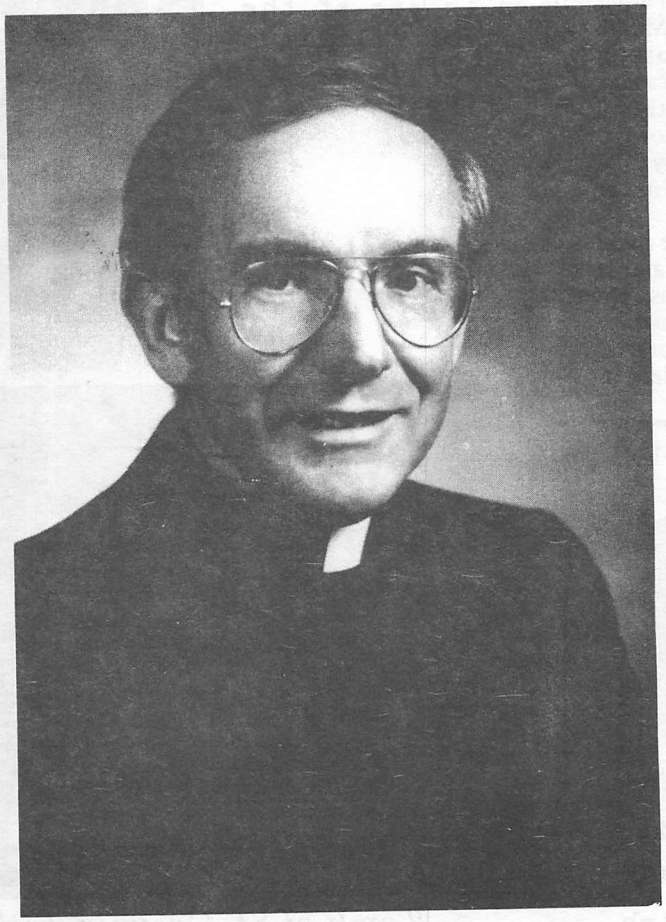
1965

The 23rd Annual Rally of New York and New Jersey Lithuanian Parish Sodalities was held in the parish hall(Ripley Place) on Sunday, May 23rd, with convention business, invocations and greetings by the priests, guest speaker, and followed at 4:30 by a procession and coronation ceremonies. The sermon was given by Rev.Peter Zemeikis, assistant pastor of St.Michaels, Bayonne,N.J. At 6:00 P.M., a dinner dance was held at Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second St. Elizabeth,NJ.

Previous Rallies in Elizabeth,N.J., were held in 1946 and on Sunday, May 6, 1956.

SS. Peter & Paul Lithuanian R.C. Church
Elizabeth, New Jersey

THE FIFTH PASTOR
1978 to.....
ADMINISTRATOR. 1969 to 1978



Rev. Peter F. Zemeikis

Father Peter Zemeikis is currently President of the Roman Catholic Priests' League of New York and New Jersey.

Elizabeth parish observes feast

SS. Peter and Paul parish in Elizabeth will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir's at an 11 a.m. concelebrated Mass March 25, 1984.

The parish observance was delayed from the actual March 4 date because Rev. Peter Zemeikis and a number of his parishioners attended the celebration in Rome on that date. Father Zemeikis will concelebrate the March 25 mass with Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, assisted by Deacons Henry Keturwitis and Anthony Samalonis. A luncheon will follow in the parish hall, sponsored by the Elizabeth Council of the Knights of Lithuania.

St. Casimir was a prince of the royal house of Poland and Lithuania and is the patron saint of both nations. He was to be crowned king of Lithuania, but died on Mar. 4, 1484, before he could be crowned. He was canonized in 1602.

"ADVOCATE" Mar.21,1984

Altar Society trip to Lithuania

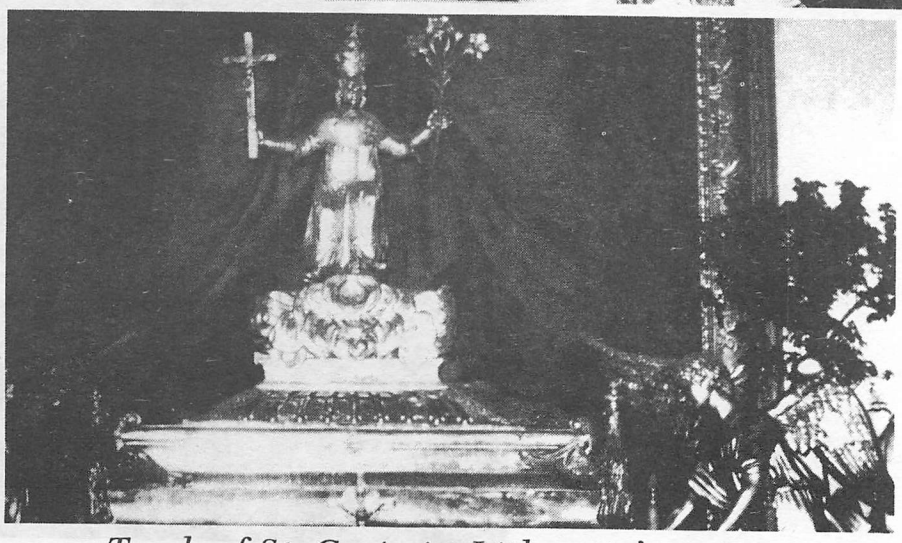
June 7 to June 19 1983.

Fr.Peter Zemeikis at the Altar with delegates from Eliza-beth,N.J.

The Gates of Dawn is one of the greatest religious-national sanctuaries of Lithuania.

National shrine of "Aušros Vartai"

John Merkis and Mrs. Bertha Delasey
TRUSTEES
Sts.Peter & Paul Parish



Tomb of St. Casimir, Lithuania's patron

The pilgrims from Elizabeth,N.J.,also visited the tomb of Saint Casimir, in Lithuania in June,1983

Rev. Vincent Svirnelis

served at SS.Peter & Paul June, 1965 to Sept. 1968

Honorary Knights of Lithuania Member from Council 14, Cicero,Illinois

Rev. Anastasius Valančius served at SS. Peter & Paul 1972 - 1978; died April, 1983

Rev.Peter F.Zemeikis, a native of Elizabeth,New Jersey, was formerly an associate pastor of St.Michael(Lithuanian)R.C. in Bayonne,N.J. and served under Rev.Dr.John Starkus and Rev. Vincent Svirnelis.

Father Zemeikis was installed as Pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church(Elizabeth,N.J.) in 1978.

During Rev.Zemeikis' pasterate in Elizabeth, the Church's final mortgage payment was made, a new Wayside Cross was built and blessed and improvements were made to the Church, School, Rectory, Convent and the parish hall.

Sts.Peter and Paul Parish Community has the Grammar School, with Franciscan Sisters and lay people teaching, Mothers Guild, Home-School Association, Lunch and Breakfast Programs and School Youth activities.

The Church has two organist for church services and the Church Choir.

The organizations in the parish are: Parish Council, Holy Name Society, Altar Society, Bingo Committee to supplement funds for school programs; Council 52, Knights of Lithuania, Lithuanian Catholic Women's Alliance, Apostles of Prayer Society, and the Senior Citizens Club of Sts.Peter and Paul Church.

From June 7 to June 19, 1983, during the Altar Society trip to Lithuania, Fr. Peter led a delegation from Sts.Peter and Paul parish to the National shrine of "Ausros Vartai" in Lithuania. The shrine,called the Gates of Dawn- is one of the greatest religious-national sanctuaries of Lithuania.

In 1984, the Catholic world commemorated the 500th anniversary of the death of St.Casimir, 1484-1984, the patron saint of LITHUANIA, in Europe, the churches named after their Saint Casimir, the Knights of Lithuania and other organizations.

A Lithuanian pilgrimage was completed with other tourists from around the world for a Papal Mass, with Pope John Paul II, as celebrant, and with Lithuanian Bishops assisting at St.Peter Basilica in Rome,Italy. The anniversary took place, Sunday, March 4,1984, as scheduled.

Participating were: Msgr.John Balkunas,P.A., Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, Bishop Anthony Deksnys, Bishop Vincent Brizgys, Archbishop Karol Salatka and Archbishop John V.Bulaitis.

In addition, Rev.Peter Zemeikis, and delegates from Elizabeth, N.J., and delegates from metropolitan New York area also attended. Appromimately 1000 Lithuanians were in Rome to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Saint Casimir.

Rev.Peter F.Zemeikis was ordained a priest by Archbishop Thomas A.Boland on May 25, 1957 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark,N.J., and celebrated his first Mass at Sts.Peter and Paul LithuanianR.C.in Elizabeth,N.J., on May 26,1957.

Father Zemeikis' first assignment was at St.Michael Lithuanian parish, Bayonne,N.J., as assistant to the pastor, Rev.John Starkus and subsequently to Rev.Vincent Svirnelis.

Fr.Peter Zemeikis was Spiritual Director of the Knights of Lithuania,Council67, Bayonne, 1957 through 1969. Spiritual Director K.of L.Council 52, Elizabeth, from 1969 to present date(198-). New York and New Jersey K.of L. District Spiritual Director 1962 to 1970.

Rev.Peter Zemeikis returned to the parish of his birth as administrator in March, 1969 and later, in 1978, he was installed as Pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church by Bishop Dominic Marconi, Union County Vicar of the Newark Ardiocese.

Father Zemeikis, conscious of the requirements of the new liturgy, enlarged the sanctuary, and construction of an altar, facing the congregation, was commissioned in keeping with the church architecture. The solemn opening of the Parish's 75th Anniversary took place on Sunday, March 25, 1970, with the blessing of this new altar. A religious church concert, under the direction of Mr.Vincas Mamaitis,organist at Sts.Peter and Paul Church, followed the blessing.

The first Mass was said at the new Altar in memory of the Founders, all deceased Parishioners and Benefactors to whom the altar was dedicated. To fulfill the Sunday obligation, the Saturday evening Mass was introduced. A new loudspeaker system and carpeting were installed in the church.

The present parish hall, 216 Ripley Place,formerly the first built Sts.Peter and Paul Church, corner stone was laid in 1895. The Rectory,situated on the second floor, was in the rear of the wooden frame Church building. Later the Church was converted into a Sisters Convent, used by the Sisters of Charity.

The renovation of the parish hall, begun by Msgr.Michael G. Kemezis, was completed. A government sponsored hot lunch program for the school children was initiated.

Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian R.C.Church
75th Anniversary

During church ceremonies were lead off by a processionof the parish grammar school children, an Honor Guard of 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, clergy, celebrants, and Archbishop Thomas A.Boland. Priests ordained from the parish and those who had served at Sts.Peter and Paul concelebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving.

Very Rev. Joseph Dambrauskas, M.I.C., Provincial, Marian Fathers, gave the sermon. Father Dambrauskas was born in Elizabeth and was a member of the Lithuanian parish. A blessing was given by Archbishop Boland, S.T.D., of the Newark Archdiocese.

The festivities at the banquet in Lithuanian Liberty Hall (Second Street) began with the parishioners and guest singing the American and Lithuanian Anthems accompanied at the piano by Vincas Mamaitis. Rev. Peter Zemeikis, administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul, gave the invocation. Father Zemeikis was later to be appointed pastor of the church in 1978.

Songs of welcome were sung by the children of Sts. Peter and Paul Grammar School. Ona Zubavicius, concert soloist, and Boleslaw Miskinis, church choir soloist, rendered selections accompanied by Al. Kacanauskas, at the piano.

Sister Mary Dolorita (Albina Butkus), a member of the community of the Good Samaritan Hospital, Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and a native Elizabethan and a member of the parish, was the Guest Speaker. Sister Dolorita and Sister Mary Leonard (Albina Peskus), also of Elizabeth, N.J., are now members of St. Joseph Hospital, in Alton, Illinois.

Benediction was given by Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, assistant pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church. (In 1981, Father Pragulbickas celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.)

In 1976, a motion picture company of Hollywood, California arrived the first week in May, bringing its crew to Elizabeth, N.J., to film the movie "The Sorcerer", a 10 million dollars production. Father Zemeikis performed a marriage ceremony for a young couple in the movie scene.

Spectators expressed interest in the movie which took place at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, known in the movie as "Our Lady of the Snow." The activities took place for one week, utilizing the facilities of the church, the parish hall and the church property, including other locations in the city.

It was the first movie ever filmed in Elizabeth, N.J., by a major movie company and local residents were excited. Most of the extras for the Elizabeth scene were from the local area and included members of the parish, who were paid $50.00 a day for a days work.

The Elizabeth Police Department motorcycle squad were used as extras for the scenes chasing bandits who stole money from the church. Cameramen were used to photograph car crashes and other dangerous scenes.

After the production was completed and all the crew, actors and actresses left Elizabeth, N.J. for other assigned destinations, a check for $1,800.00 was received by the church for the use of the parish facilities.

At the Sunday Mass, May 23, 1982, Rev.Peter F.Zemeikis, celebrated his 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Assisting were Deacon Anthony Samalonis and Deacon Henry Keturwitis of the parish.

Con-celebrants were: Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, assistant at Sts.Peter and Paul Church; Msgr.John Scharnus, pastor of Holy Trinity Church,Newark,who at one time was an assistant at Sts.Peter and Paul Church,Elizabeth; Rev.Dominick Pocius, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kearny; Rev.Alfred T.Zemeikis, assistant at Sacred Heart Church,Newark. Fr.Alfred is a brother of Fr.Peter Zemeikis. Also Lithuanian priests of New York and New Jersey and priests of Downtown Deanery 25 of Elizabeth.

The Homily was given by Msgr.John Balkunas. The Monsignor also gave a homily during Fr.Zemeikis' first Mass on Sunday, May 26,1957.

Rev.Ronald Marczewski was the master of ceremonies.

The first reading was given by Mrs.Dorothy Bolanowski(Sister), and the second reading by Sr.Ignata Zemeikis(1st Cousin). A responsorial psalm in Lithuanian was given by Stella Marchinauskas (1st Counsin). The Holy Gospel in English was given by Deacon Anthony Samalonis and in Lithuanian by Deacon Henry Keturwitis.

The music was furnished by The Firebird Brass Quintet and the choir of Sts.Peter and Paul Church sang, and was directed by Matthew A.Yatkauskas, music director and organist.

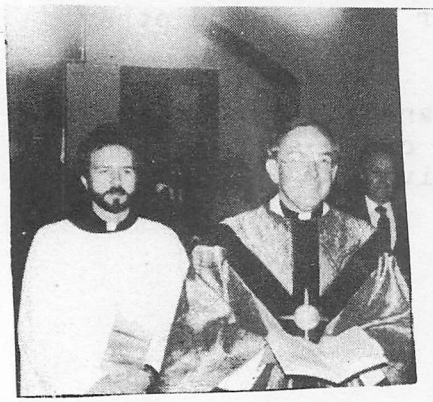
A dinner was tendered by the parish community. Invocation was given by Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas. A city council member presented a resolution praising Fr.Zemeikis on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. Bishop Deksnys also sent a letter of congratulation.

Father Zemeikis received gifts from the Sisters of St.Francis, parish societies, friends and relatives. Father Peter thanked the parishioners, guest and friends on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee.

Rev.Peter Zemeikis,pastor, of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, announced that on May 1, 1983, the parishioners will celebrate a mortgage burning event and final payment of the Lithuanian Church at the parish hall on Ripley Place and that a new Wayside Cross is being built which will be blessed at a special ceremony.

Silver Jubilee May 23, 1982

Source-Compiled from the booklets
Sts.Peter and Paul R.C. Church
75 Anniversary Jubilee (1970)
and
Father Peter Zemeikis' Silver Jubilee(1982)



Father Peter Zemeikis
and
Fr.Ron Marczewski

In June, 1980, according to Rev.Peter Zemeikis, pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church(Elizabeth),the Parish Council passed a a resolution to remove both church steeples down to the brick towers, capping them and replacing the five-foot crosses.

Father Zemeikis said the church has taken care of the steeples in the past four years, repairing them six times at a cost of $33,000. "The church steeples," Zemeikis said,"have reached a point of no return," was reported by a local newspaper.

Elizabeth Daily Journal continued and stated that--Despite the herculean efforts of church and community leaders-one of Elizabeth's premier architectural landmarks will soonbe altered(and was) beyond recognition.

Because of fears the structure might soon topple, church officials have contracted to have the yellow stone twin steeples reduced from their present height of 152 feet by 75 per cent.

Church officials say the move was prompted by weaknesses in the structure of the steeples they claim have been caused mainly by years of vibration from planes departing from Newark International Airport.

The Newark Archdiocese contributed more than $20.000. and the balance by the parishioners and friends.

In 1980, after the sale of Lithuanian Liberty Hall building on Second Street, the association urged its members and friends to help the church defray cost of reconstruction, by turning their share money over to their church. Many shareholders followed this instruction and contributed.

In 1910, the church and steeples were built during the pastorate of the late Rev.Baltramiejus Zindzius.

(WS)

STS.PETER AND PAUL CHURCH WAYSIDE CROSS
and MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY

A new wayside cross was built by a Lithuanian craftsman, Albinas Stukas, of Elizabeth, who is a parishioner of the church.

On Sunday, May 1,1983, the cross was blessed by Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, an assistant,for the past 30 years, prior to the dinner in the parish hall(Ripley Place), at which the mortgage was burned leaving the 88-year-old parish free of debt.

Rev.Peter Zemeikis, pastor ofSts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) Church, assisted Father Pragulbickas, before a large gathering at the cross. Deacon Henry Keturwitis and Deacon Anthony Samalonis also assisted in the ceremony.

(WS)

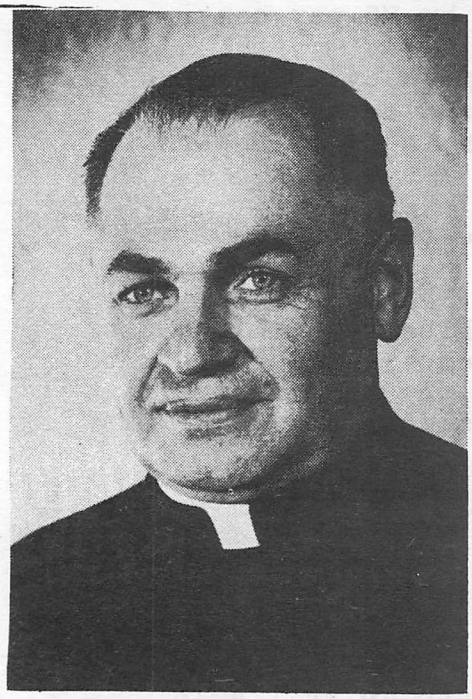
MONSIGNOR JOHN SCHARNUS

Msgr.John Scharnus, pastor of Holy Trinity(Lithuanian)Church, Adams St.,in Newark,N.J.,served Sts.Peter & Paul Church(Elizabeth), as an assistant pastor from August, 1939 to June, 1941.

MONSIGNOR IGNAS KELMELIS

Monsignor Ignas Kelmelis, served Sts.Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth, as a curate from January, 1921 to January, 1922, under the pastorate of Rev. Bartholemew Zindzius.

Msgr.Kelmelis built a social hall for meetings and for cultural programs, during his pastorate of Holy Trinity Church. Due to a recent fire parishioners now(1984), use the lower of the hall for church services and the upper floor for social programs and meetings.



REV.JUOZAS PRAGULBICKAS
(1953--)

Father Juozas Pragulbickas, Gime 1903. IV(April) 8. Ylakin vis. 1930m. Baige V.D.U.-te Teologijos skyriu. 1931 V(May) 30, Kaune Isventintas kunigu.

Dirbo vikara Tryskiu. Skuodo ir Sveksnos parapijose, buvo klebonas Notenuose Batakines, Tremtyte dirbo Arnsberge. Augustdertee. Gevene stovyklose. Gyvendamas JAV-bose eje kunige pareigas lietuviu parapijose, dirbo lituanistinese mokyklose. Gyvena Elizabeth,N.J.

Father Pragulbickas has served as an assistant pastor at Sts.Peter and Paul Church, since 1953---, under the pastorates of Rt.Rev.Msgr. Michael G.Kemezis and Rev.Peter Zemeikis.

Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas in 1981 celebrated his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and his 80th Birthday in 1983.

REV.JOHN J.KINTA

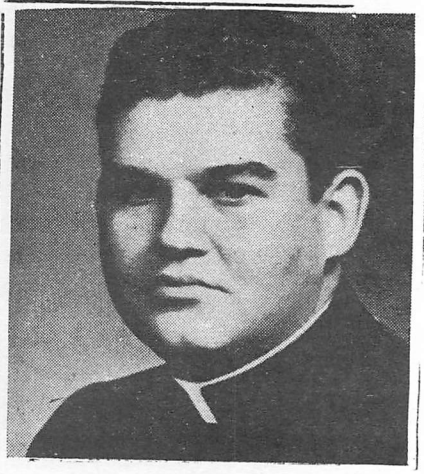
Father John J.Kinta served Sts. Peter and Paul Church as Assistant Pastor from June, 1931 to June, 1935

Rev.Kinta also was Pastor of St. Casimir Lithuanian Church in Paterson, N.J.

Father Albert Matulis served Sts. Peter and Paul Church as Administrator from 1968 to 1969.

Rev.Matulis is at present Pastor of St.Michael Lithuanian Church in Bayonne,N.J.

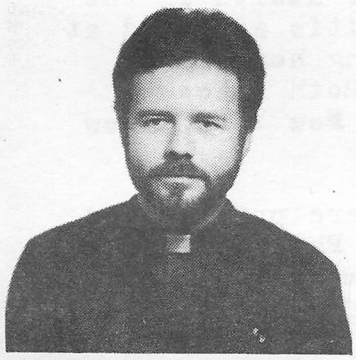
REV.ALBERT MATULIS



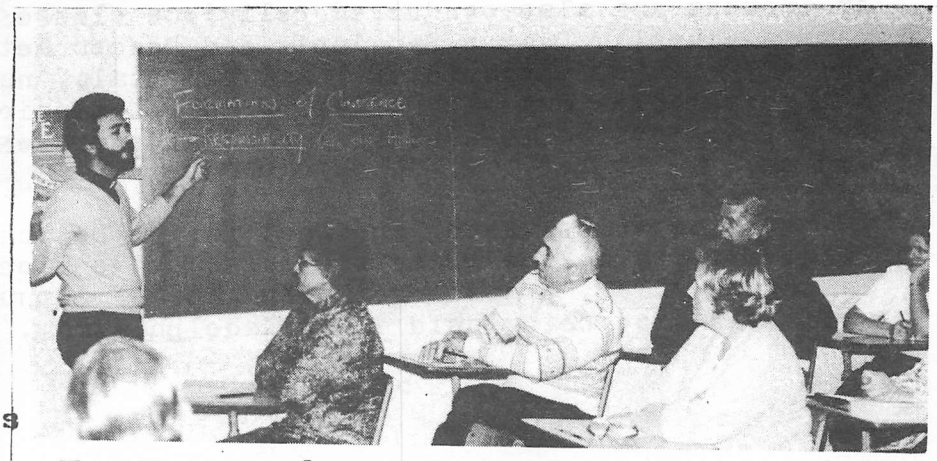
REV.RONALD MARCZEWSKI

(December 1980 to present..at Sts.Peter and Paul Church)

Father Ron Marczewski was born in Bayonne, New Jersey on April 7, 1948. He was the first child of Margaret Dillon and John F. Marczewski. The year after his birth his family moved to Roselle Park, New Jersey where he was a parishoner of Assumption Parish. After graduating Roselle Park Public Elementary School, he attended St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City. While in St. Peter's Prep he decided to enter the Priesthood. After graduation from high school, in 1966, he started his studies at Seton Hall University. In 1970 he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Languages from Seton Hall. His theology studies were conducted at Immaculate Conception Seminary from which he received a Masters of Divinity. In 1974 he was ordained and assigned to St. Adalbert's Parish in Elizabeth, New Jersey. During his 5½ years in parish work he taught high school in St. Patrick's Parish, Elizabeth; served as the Archdiocesan Vocation Director for boys in co-ed high schools; was elected and served a term on the Senate of Priests of the Archdiocese of Newark; and for three years held the position of secretary of the Alumni Association for Immaculate Conception Seminary. In February of 1980, Father Ron was assigned as the Catholic Chaplain for Rutgers University Newark Campus and New Jersey Institute of Technology. Besides serving in that ministerial capacity he is the Advisor for Campus Ministry for the Archdiocese of Newark and the Chairperson of the Priest Personnel Board for the Archdiocese of Newark.



Father Ronald Marczewski's 10th Anniversary of Priesthood, Mass and Dinner, Saturday, May 19, 1984



Fr. Ron conducting adult education services

at Sts.Peter and Paul School, Elizabeth, N.J.

S.S.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C. COMMUNITY

Assistant

Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas-

In 1981 Father Pragulbickas celebrated his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Father has served Sts.Peter and Paul Parish for 30 years.

Week End Assistant

Rev.Ronald Marczewski-

Father Ron at present is Chaplain of the Newman Clubs at Rutgers University and at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, both located in Newark,N.J.

Father Marczewski is formerly of St.Adalbert Church in Elizabeth.

Ordination to
The Permanent Diaconate
Archdiocese of Newark
April 11,1981

Deacon Anthony Samalonis-
Former President of the parish council; was active in an anti-airplane noise movement in Elizabethport section which through his efforts brought relief of airplane noises to the people of the city of Elizabeth,N.J.

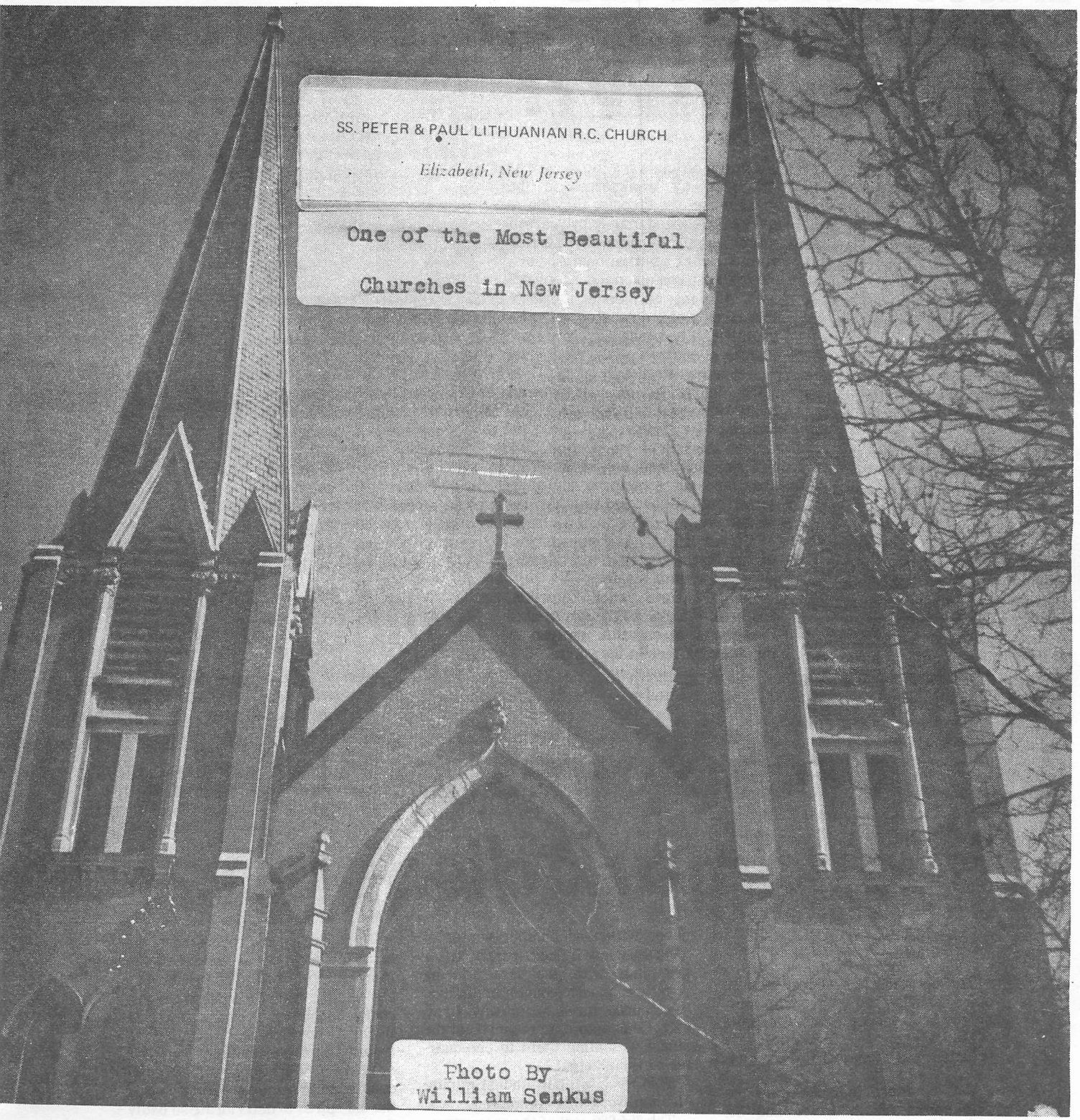
Deacon Henry Kerturwitis-
Chaplain of Sts.Peter and Paul Church Senior Citizens' Club.

Deacon Keturwitis and Deacon Samalonis are members of Sts.Peter and Paul Parish and the Holy Name Society.

Father Pragulbickas conducted Saturday Lithuanian language classes; Father Marczewski presented interesting weekly homilies or sermons and also conducted religious classes for adults in the parish school; Deacon Samalonis and Deacon Keturwitis assisted at Masses, visited patients at local hospitals, nursing homes and at parishioners homes by offering Holy Communion. Both Deacons were also invited to serve as guest at parishes in New York & New Jersey.

The two Sts.Peter and Paul parish Deacons were priviledged to give talks at the Priests' League convention in Philadelphia,Pa. in August, 1983, preceding the Knights of Lithuania convention which was also being held in Philadelphia,Pa., during August, 1983.

REV.PETER F .ZEMEIKIS,PASTOR



The Daily Journal-Feb.7,1981

Landmarks come down

By MARK McQUILLAN
Journal Staff Writer

Despite the herculean efforts of church and community leaders — and over the objections of many of Elizabethport's longtime residents — one of Elizabeth's premier architectural landmarks will soon be altered almost beyond recognition.

Because of fears the structures might soon topple, church officials have contracted to have the yellow stone twin steeples of St. Peter and St. Paul's R.C. Church, 211 Ripley Place, reduced from their present height of 152 feet by 75 percent.

On Friday, workmen removed the crosses and some of the roof slates on the steeples of the 70-year-old church, a process that will radically change the French Gothic design so closely identified with both the 'Port and the Lithuanian community it has served for so long.

What is left of the once-grand steeples will peek out just a few feet above the brick bases upon which they now stand.

Church officials say the move was prompted by weaknesses in the structure of the steeples they claim have been caused mainly by years of vibrations from planes departing from Newark International Airport.

"We've given up on the steeples," said Anthony Samalonis, head of Elizabeth's noise abatement program, who has long advocated the placing of controls on the noise level of departing aircraft.

The church, he said, has signed a $54,000 contract with C&H Industrial Contractors, of Rahway, to reduce the size of the steeples.

There has been talk of lowering the imposing structures for quite some time, but the bad weather this winter prompted that final decision.

"In particularly bad windstorms, the west steeple began to twist and sway," Samalonis said.

He said Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor of the church, had estimated the steeple at one time swayed as much as six feet in the wind.

Church spires nipped; a landmark disappears

By MARK McQUILLAN
Journal Staff Writer

To look at the modest church steeples today, you'd probably never guess they once touched heights of more than 150 feet and were architectural landmarks of the city.

But for more than 70 years the twin spires of St. Peter and St. Paul's R.C. Church on Ripley Place in Elizabeth were not only a city landmark but a symbol of the Lithuanian community in Elizabethport.

In February, however, the parish decided the aging steeples could never withstand another winter of wind and low-flying aircraft. After grappling with the issue during countless parish council meetings, the church hired a Rahway firm, C&H Contractors, to reconstruct the steeples, scaling them to one-quarter of their height.

This week, all but the last-minute cleanup work was completed.

The $54,000 cost of the reconstruction is being footed by the parishioners themselves. One church source concedes, however, the parish has raised "only about $21,000" for the work, and is waiting to hear from the Newark Archdiocese on its appeal for financial help.

The decision to reconstruct the historic facility was made all the more difficult for the community by the feeling that the noise from aircraft departing Newark International Airport has significantly contributed to the problem.

Years of vibrations from aircraft coupled with severe weather caused the old spires to deteriorate so badly they would sometimes sway as much as six feet in the wind during storms, church officials claim.

Sts. Peter & Paul R. C. Church CHOIR

Elizabeth

NEW JERSEY

1970

Choir of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish with choirmaster V. Mamaitis

Front Row- Mrs.Alb.Normantas, Mrs.Ona Budrikas, Miss Egle Juska, Rev.Peter Zemeikis, Pastor; Vincas Mamaitis, Organist; Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, Assistant; Miss Audrone Bartys, Mrs.Eug.Raudys and Mrs.Alma Kurilavicius

Top Row- L.Zubrys, Aloyas Rudzitas, V.Staknis, Anthony Markevicius(Markey), G.Kliucnikas, K.Ciurlys, Boleslaw Miskinis, Frank Kudulis and Alg.Andziulis.

Vincas Mamaitis' new residence is at Sunny Hills, Florida.

STS.PETER AND PAUL(LITHUANIAN) R.C.CHURCH

(1484 - The Year of St.Casimir - 1984)

Elizabeth, New Jersey

Professor Stankunas and Julius Veblaitis -Violinist

Guest artist at Sts.Peter and Paul Church

JOSEPH STANKUNAS, of Elizabeth,N.J., has been active in the musical field as accompanist, organist and composer for many years.

Professor Stankunas has written over 100 compositions, vocal and instrumental.

Although beset with arthritis which has painfully stiffened the joints of his fingers- he has not allowed it to interfere with his great love of music.

Composer Stankunas is a man of great dedication and perseverance.

We are proud to acknowledge him as a fellow Lithuanian and a man of extraordinary talent- Prof.Joseph Stankunas.

Julianna Peskus/Liana & Ben Miskinis
(Church Soloist)

P.S.-Prof.Joseph Stankunas at present is organist at St.Patrick's Church, Elizabeth,N.J.

Lou Stukas and Brian Doherty are both organist at Sts.Peter and Paul.

Lou Stukas, organist &cChoirdirector of Lithuanian Mass

Brian Doherty, organist at English Masses

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council of Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian R.C. Church was started May 10,1976. At that first get-together, there were 45 elected and/or appointed members.

It was agreed Anthony Samalonis was to become a temporary chairman or president. In turn, he, with the help of two other members, Helen Naiva and Anne Barenas, drew up a constitution for the parish council. In addition, Rev.Peter Zemeikis, as spiritual advisor, was to help.

The by-laws of the constitution were ready by September 20, 1976 and were presented to the membership.

On January 24,1977, election of officers was held. Mr.Anthony Samalonis was elected first President of the Parish Council. Mr.Samalonis at one time was a Trustee of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, and later became a Permanent Diaconate, of Archdiocese of Newark, on April 11,1981.

Deacon Anthony Samalonis is now serving the Lithuanian Church and is assisting Father Peter Zemeikis,Pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Church.

Other officers elected were--

Frank Grinchis, Vice-President. Mr.Grinchis, a former Trustee of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, is an alternate Trustee.

Lee Grynis, Recording Secretary. Mrs.Grynis is also a former Secretary of the Altar Society.

Lorraine Staboris, Corresponding Secretary. Miss Staboris is also a former president of the Altar Society.

The following committees were also formed:

1. Education
2. Liturgy
3. Finance,Maintenance
4. Social Concern
5. Social

Names of the following people who succeeded Anthony Samalonis, as presidents for 2 year terms.

1. Frank Grinchis
2. Miss Veronica Krezonis
3. Mrs.Lee Grynis
4. Miss Anne Barenas

Rev.Peter Zemeikis, with the parish council cooperation and assistance, started a campaign for contributions in the Spring of 1977 to redecorate the church. The estimated cost was $60,000.

Social Conerns were covered by(Deacon) Anthony Samalonis. Mr.Samalonis worked hard to get the noise level of planes flying low over Sts.Peter and Paul Church Steeples banished or corrected. The New York and New Jersey Port Authority were alerted to the danger of low flying planes in the Elizabethport section of which the Sts.Peter and Paul Church was located.

In 1980, according to Rev.Peter Zemeikis, the Parish Council passed a resolution to remove both church steeples because of fears the structure might soon topple; it was claimed to have been caused mainly by years of vibration from planes departing from the airport.

Liturgy Committee- started the Mass for Anoiting of the sick, parish retreats plus religion lecture series. Mrs.Emily Linkus assisted.

Repair-Maintenance- John Morkis, Trustee of Sts.Peter and Paul Church,is Treasurer of the Holy Name Society of the parish and is also a numbers caller at Bingo Games for the Mother's Guild(PTA) every Friday, is a handy man for repairs.He also picks up food for the school lunch program; keeps the parish hall neat and clean. Mr. Morkis was elected first president of the Senior Citizens' Club of SS Peter and Paul parish.

Finance- Mrs.Bertha Delasey and John Morkis-as Trustees, helped Father Zemeikis with his book work.

Education- First chairperson was Mrs.Ruth Brazinski and now the present chairperson is Sister Mary Helen Sirvinskas,OFM.

Social- Mrs. Isabelle Keturwitis is in charge of all parish social affairs, such as-Parish picnics, Chinese auction,Jubilee dinner; installation of Father Peter Zemeikis as pastor;social hour after Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Mortgage burning dinner.

Deanery Delegate- Ben Miskinis, as delegate, reported that an emergency food program was started in 1979 to help the needy. Parishioners were asked to bring one food container or item a month.

(Deacon)Henry Keturwitis and (Deacon) Anthony Samalonis started studies in 1979 to become deacons. They studied for two years before they were ordained permanent deacons(As the permanent diaconate of Archdiocese of Newark,N.J. on April 11,1981.) Both deacons assist Father Peter Zemeikis, pastor of Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church.

At present(1983) there are 25 active members.

The present slate of officers are--(1982-1983)

Rev.Peter Zemeikis, Spiritual Adviser

Mrs.Lee Grynis-President

Mrs.Margarent(Jackie)Leonard, Vice-President;former president of the Mother's Guild(PTA) of Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School.

Miss Veronica Krezonis, Recording Secretary, former president of the parish council and was elected first secretary of the Senior Citizens' Club of SS Peter and Paul parish.

Committee Chairpersons are--

Sister M.Helen Sirvinskas,OFM-Education

Mrs.Emily Linkus-Liturgy

John Morkis, Jose Dagama, Sr. and Jose Dagama,Jr. Maintenance

Deacon Anthony Samalonis-Social Concern.

Mrs.Isabelle Keturwitis-Social

Signed-Lee Grynis

STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C.CHURCH - ELIZABETH,N.J.

75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

1st row: Anne Mitchell-Matulevich, Agotha Degutis, Toni Degutis, Eleanor O'Brien, John Morkis, Rev. Peter Zemeikis, Anna Kakstis, Justina Bunis, Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, Vincas Mamaitis; 2nd row: Petras Lanys, Blanche Cells, Ann Senkus, Agatha Naiva, Jenny Matuza, Sister M. Constance, Bertha Delasey, Mary Yorke, June Szczepanski, Anthony Samalonis; 3rd row: Isabell Keturwitis, Jacqueline Leonard, Ann Mitchell, Irene Savonis, Lorraine Staboris, Mary Motecus, Ann Baronas, William Senkus, Walter Yuknavich; 4th row: Joseph Naiva, Henry Keturwitis, Daniel Savonis, Frank Grinchis, Joseph Brazinski, Walter Czekay, Edward Mitchell, Joseph Motecus, Ben Miskinis, Joseph Szczepanski. Not present for photograph: Kazys Bartys, Vyto Budris, Martin Dixon, Paula Budris, Dorothy Grinchis, Josephine Martinkus, Irene Morris, Ann Zabita, Julia Zielsky.

THE MOTHERS GUILD

The Mothers Guild, formerly P.T.A. of Sts. Peter and Paul Grammar School (Msgr. Kemezis Place) Elizabeth, N.J. was organized more than 35 years ago by Sister Mary Agnes Daina, of St. Francis Convent, Ripley Place, and members of the parish.

Sr. Agnes is considered the founder of the Parents-Teachers-Association of the parish school. The membership elected Mrs. Margaret (Gutauckis) Woytala as first President to lead the P.T.A. Sister Mary Christine was Principal.

The purpose of the newly formed group was to aid and also over come some of the problems and limitations at school due to unforseen poor economic conditions during this period of time. The school students were mostly children of Lithuanian parentage.

One of the early projects instituted by members was a blanket club formed under the direction of Mrs. Bernice (Zack) Aktyl and Mrs. Mildred (Luksis) Zalapukes. The profits derived were used to purchase books for the school children so each child could have his or her own books instead of sharing them.

A major project undertaken by the P.T.A. for additional school revenue was a weekly Bingo games on Fridays, under the supervision of Mrs. Aktyl whose responsibility was filing weekly information forms of admissions and recording profits to the Bingo Games Commission. Other activities were cake sales, fashion shows, breakfast with Saint Nicholas in December and having a program for a children Chinese Auction and children bazaar.

The Mothers Guild organization fosters spiritual and temporal betterment for the individual member and also supports, encourages and assists the parish school and the Sisters who staff the grammar school, reported Mrs. Isabelle Keturwitis.

The activities by members are attending annual Mass for the intention of its members and receiving Holy Communion during the Feast of Christ the King.

Members recite the Rosary prayer for its deceased or departed members and for their immediate family.

Members are urged to perform corporal or personal work of mercy.

Monetery awards are annually donated to two highest student graduates who excell in their studies at Sts. Peter & Paul School.

In addition, fund raising is on the agenda for the school program and for the Sisters of St. Francis.

Mrs. Eleanor O'Brien has served the Mothers Guild as President for more than 15 years. Since given up the presidency, Mrs. O'Brien continued to help the Bingo Committee every Friday at the parish hall.

The P.T.A., Mrs. Aktyl said, never felt that the work and support had a time limit. In need of more revenue the P.T.A. organization continued weekly Bingo games.

Former President Mrs. O'Brien said the woman members are faithful and hard working individuals. Most of the workers do not have children in school any more but they still continue to work or perform duties for a good cause.

During the renovation of the parish hall, Mrs. Keturwitis recalls, the committee voted temporally to hold Bingo Games at Lithuanian Liberty Hall, Second Street. Later the games were returned to the parish hall, air condition installed, new refrigeration units acquired and the kitchen facilities were improved through the efforts of Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth.

The following Presidents who have served the Mothers Guild (PTA) since it was founded are listed in alphabetical order:

Bernice (Zack) Aktyl
Cecilia (Bokenko) Alberts
Alpha (Stephanovich) Barry
Mary (Kvaracejus) Burak
Agnes (Bishop) Klebosis
Stella (Loksmin) Lasco
Agatha (Chingo) Naiva
Eleanor O'Brien
Margaret (Gutauckis) Woytala
Mildred (Luksis) Zalapukas
and
Jackie Leonard, Antoinette Degutis

Antoinette (Jankunas) Degutis is President of the Bingo Committee. She is also known as "Toni" Degutis, said, the committee has the following hard working people continously helping their committee every week. They are President Jackie Leonard, former President Eleanor O'Brien, Isabelle Keturwitis, Julia Zielski, Genevieve Matuzas, Annie Mitchell-Matalavich, Christina Ochs, Irene Savonis, Blanche Cells, Frances Sanchez and Irene Montiero.

Additional parishioners who participated as volunteer workers are: John Morkis and Anthony Samalonis as callers of bingo numbers and Peter Kasilionis.

The pastor of the parish gave moral support to the members of the Mothers Guild and Bingo Committee for their action. They also received praise for their cooperation and assistance given to the school children, the Sisters and the lay teachers.

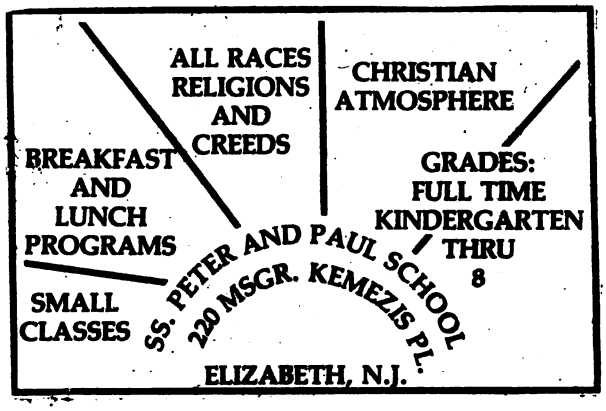
March, 1983

STS.PETER AND PAUL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Msgr. Kemezis Place
Elizabeth, N.J.

70th Anniversary

From 1913 to 1926, students were taught under the guidance of Sisters of Charity (Motherhouse, Convent Station, N.J.)
AND
From 1926 to 1983(current year) they studied and were guided by the Sisters of St.Francis (Motherhouse, Pittsburgh, Pa.) and the layteachers



Rev.Peter Zemeikis, Pastor

Sr.Helen Sirvinskas,OFM, Current Principal

Franciscan Sisters Faculty

Sr.Mary Christine, former Principal
Sr.Mary Matilda, also former Principal

Sr.Matilda celebrates this year(1983)her 50th Anniversary in the Franciscan Order

Sister M.Ann Lestoski and Sister Ann Marie Lestoski(twin sisters), both celebrate this year(1983) their 25th Anniversary in the Franciscan Order.

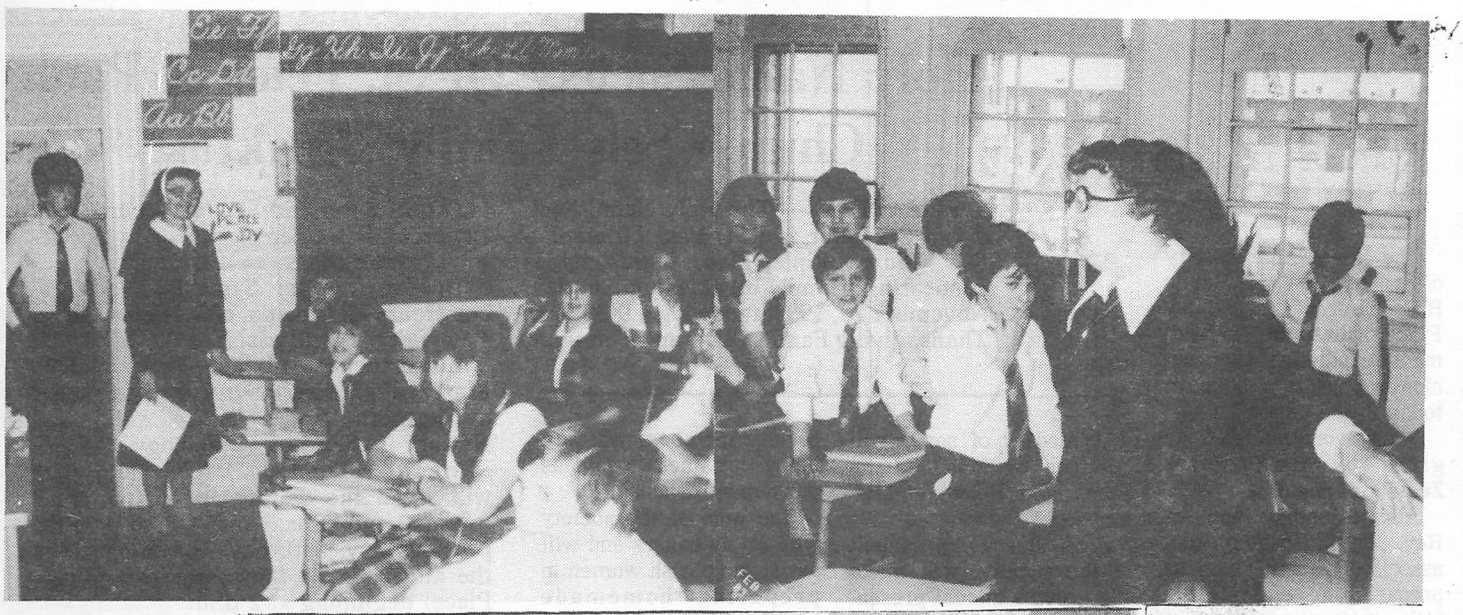
"At Ss.Peter and Paul School, Elizabeth,N.J.,98 percent of the students are not parishioners but are neighborhood children of Portuguese, Haitian,Cuban, black,Puerto Rican and Polish backgrounds.

The 70-year-old school is supported by a Lithuanian parish community, provides extra remedial work for the gifted and slow learner, government-sponsored breakfast and lunch programs, family dances, field trips and church functions.

Government services for students include English as a second language, basic skills and supplementary services. A staff of volunteers provides secretarial skills, supervises the cafeteria and introduces students to the library."(Source-"The Advocate"1/24/83)

On the occasion of the 800th year Anniversary of St.Francis of Assisi, the parishioners and the Lithuanian community presented a new car for the Sisters of the parish.

STS.PETER AND PAUL GRAMMAR SCHOOL-ELIZABETH,N.J.



Sr.M.Matilda

Sr.M.Christine

Our Parish School has a highly motivated faculty

ST. PETER & PAUL SCHOOL — Principal, *Sr. Helen Sirvinskas, O.S.F.*

Our parish school was established in 1913 for the children of parishioners. It has been staffed since 1926 by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, Pittsburgh, Pa., a religious order serving Lithuanian parish schools.

In recent years, our school has become community oriented, and presently has a capacity enrollment of 212. Of these, 98% are not parishioners. Our Lithuanian parish enthusiastically supports the school for immigrant children of many nationalities. It is part of the parish mission endeavor to provide a quality education in the inner-city.

On May 12,1984,SS Peter and Paul School is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. A Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered by Rev.Peter Zemeikis,Pastor, and Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas. Deacon Anthony Samalonis and Deacon Henry Keturwitis will assist. A Dinner/Dance will follow in the parish hall.

April 11,1981

The Holy Name Society of St. Peter and St. Paul's R.C. CHurch, 211 Ripley Place, Elizabeth, is holding a candlelight Communion supper at 5:30 p.m. today in the parish hall.

The invocation will be given by Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor.

Also attending will be Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, associate pastor, who is preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The celebration will be held at a 12 noon Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday, May 31.

Others attending the dinner Saturday will be Rev. Ronald Marczewski, Sister M. Helen, principal of the parish grammar school, and all of the nuns who teach at the school.

Main speaker for the night will be Sister M. Christine of St. Francis Convent, Pittsburgh, Pa., a former principal of the parish school, whcih is on Msgr. Kemezis Place.

Holy Name Society Of St. Peter & Paul Church Sets Family Breakfast

ELIZABETH — The Holy Name Society of St. Peter and St. Paul Lithuanian R.C. Church, Ripley Place, in this city, is sponsoring a family breakfast on Sunday, November 28, 1982, following a 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Family Mass and Communion at St. Peter and St. Paul Church with Reverend Peter Zemeikis, pastor, as celebrant of the Mass.

Deacon Anthony Samalonis and Deacon Henry Keturwitis, of St. Peter and St. Paul Church, will assist at the Mass.

Guest speaker will be Reverend Ronald Marczewski, director of Newman Center at Rutgers University (Newark) and Newark Institute of Technology.

Men of the parish Holy Name Society will assist the women in baking bread (pyraga) and buns, which will be sold the previous day, Saturday, November 27 in the afternoon, in the parish hall (Ripley Place) beginning at 2 p.m.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the breakfast and program are: John Morkis, Daniel Peskus, William Senkus, John Barcas, Joseph Degutis and Jose Dagame. "CITIZEN" 11/24/82

A medley of songs will be done by Mrs. Juliana Liana and Boleslaw Miskinis.

John Barcas, president of the society, will make the group's annual presentation of $1,000 to the church. The money was raised over the past year and in conjunction with the Altar Society at the harvest picnic in September.

William Senkus, vice president, will make presentations to Anthony Samalonis and Henry Keturwitis, two communicants of the church and society members who are being ordained today as permanent deacons.

The men of the society will act as bakers and will assist the parish women in preparing homemade bread which will be sold today.

Chairman of the supper is John Morkis, assisted by Joseph Degutis, B. Joseph Linkus and Jose Dagama. Mrs. Agatha Naiva, who is in charge of the school luncheon program, will prepare the menu, and the grammar school's eighth grade girls will serve as waitresses.

November 24,1982
Source-"The Citizen"

"The Citizen" March 23,1983

Candlelight Communion Supper Set At Saints Peter And Paul R.C. Church

March 23,1983

Source-"The Citizen"

ELIZABETH — The Holy Name Society of Saints Peter and Paul (Lithuanian) R.C. Church, Ripley Place, in this city, is sponsoring a Candlelight Communion Supper on Saturday, March 26, 1983, following a 5:30 p.m. Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Church, with Reverend Peter Zemeikis, pastor, as celebrant of the Mass.

Reverend Joseph Pragulbickas, Reverend Ronald Marczewski, Deacon Keturwitis and Deacon Anthony Samalonis, will assist at the Mass.

At the supper, entertainment will be provided by Mrs. Juliana Liana and Boloslaw Miskinis, both members of Saints Peter and Paul Church Choir. John Stankunas, organist at St. Patrick's Church, Elizabeth, will be the accompanist at the piano.

The committee in charge of arrangements consists of John Morkis and William Senkus, co-chairmen; Joseph Degutis and Joseph Dagama, raffle and door prizes; and Joseph Linkus and Mr. Morkis, tickets.

Also, President Daniel Peskus of Saints Peter and Paul HNS announced that the society will be host to the Union County Holy Name Federation Society meeting at the parish hall on Ripley Place, Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m.

THE ALTAR SOCIETY OF

STS.PETER AND PAUL (LITHUANIAN) R.C.CHURCH

The Altar Society was started during Monsigner Michael G. Kemezis stay. After he died the society went into limbo. When Rev.Peter Zemeikis came here on March 8, 1969, he reorganized the Altar Society in 1970. The first President was Mrs. Bernice (Zack) Aktyl:

2nd president--Anne Barenas(Miss)

3rd " Lerraine Staberis(Miss)

4th " Monica Samalonis(Mrs.)

5th " Lee Grynis(Mrs.)

6th " Yvonne Karalis(Miss)

Each president served 2 years--

The activities sponsored by the Altar Society are-

1. Stretch and Sew Fashion Show
2. Flemington Fur Fashion Show
3. Christmas Boutique(2)
4. Spiritual Retreat-one day a year
5. At least 6 bus rides a year.
   For Altar Society bus trips and other information, Mrs.Bertha Delasey is contacted at the rectory-Phone 352-2271
6. Planned and had a Seder Meal during Lent.
7. Harvest Picnic with Holy Name Society each September after Labor Day.
8. Made donations for fuel, Bishop Deksnys,Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, church steeple, mortgage and Wayside Cross and parish needs.
9. Mailed clothing to Southern Missions.

10. Purchased cassocks, surplices, altar linen and necessary Altar needs.

11. Participated in Agape and Jesse Tree.

12. Purchased and decorated Christmas Trees in Church.

13. Purchased flowers for Holy Days.

14. Donated Thanksgiving Baskets to needy.

15. Remembered elderly at Thanksgiving.

16. Attended Byzantine Liturgy.

17. Intend to recreate a Lithuanian Eve Supper beginning December 15,1982.

18. Have a Mass said for deceased members; members' Mother, Father, Brother, Sister, Husband, or Wife.

19. Made donations to B.A.L.F. every year to assist the needy Lithuanian people in their native country and other places in the world.(Father Joseph Pragulbickas, assistant at Sts.Peter and Paul R.C. Church, is the Elizabeth director for this appeal).

Signed: Lee Grynis
Oct.5,1982

Combined Altar Society and Holy Name Society Annual Picnics.

"Liepsna" dance group

... executed with precision

The dance group is under the direction of Birute Vaiciunas, Elizabeth, NJ

Performance during the Harvest Picnic

Sts. Peter & Paul R. C. Church

211 Ripley Place

Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206

Telephone Elizabeth 2-2271

MORTGAGE BURNING AND WAYSIDE CROSS BLESSED

MAY 1,1983

On the occasion of the Blessing of the new Lithuanian Wayside Cross and Mortgage Burning, a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated Sunday, May 1, at 12 Noon with Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor, of Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church, (Ripley Place). and Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, who also gave gave the homily.

Deacon Henry Keturwitis and Deacon Anthony Samalonis,of the parish, assisted.

First reading was made by Sr.Helen Sirvinskas and the second reading by Emily Linkus.

The Holy Gospel was read in English by Deacon Anthony Samalonis and in Lithuanian language by Deacon Henry Keturwitis.

Sts.Peter and Paul Church Choir sang and was directed by Brian Doherty, choir director and church organist; also Julius Veblaitis gave a violin solo.

The following church organization presidents made offertory to the church: They were Yvonne Karalis,Altar Society; Daniel Peskus, Holy Name Society of Sts.Peter and Paul Church; Anne Mitchell-Matalavich,Knights of Lithuania,Elizabeth Council 52; Josephine

Martinkus, Apostles of Prayer Society; Christine(Bunes) Ochs, Lithuanian Catholic Women's Alliance,Elizabeth Chapter; John Morkis, Senior Citizens Club ..... of Sts.Peter and Paul Church; Eleanor O'Brien, Mothers Guild; Antoinette Degutis, School Bingo Committee; Lee Grynis,Parish Council; and Fernando Monteiro, Home School Association of Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School.

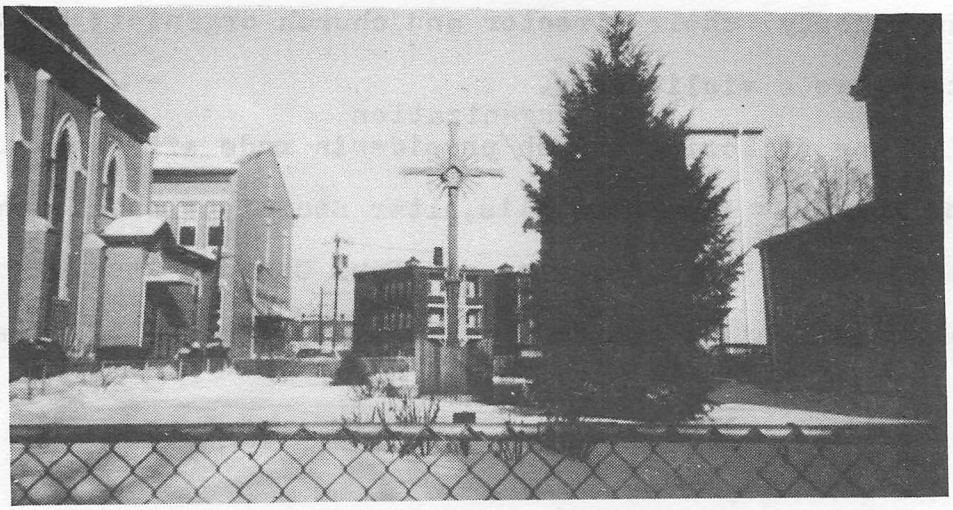
Rev.Father Joseph Pragulbickas, after Mass, blessed the Lithuanian Cross in the church court grounds.

Albinas Stukas, a member of the parish, built the Wayside Cross. He is one of the owner-managers of Ruta Stair Company. His artistic circular stairways have been written-up in the newspapers more than once. In 1970, Father Peter Zemeikis presented Mr. Stukas with an artistic clay made of an altar "facing the people". The parish church now has an altar built by Mr.Stukas that perfectly blends with the Gothic church.

When the Lithuanian wayside Cross built by Stanley Valatka in 1946, crumbled and succumbed to age, Father Zemeikis presented Mr.Stukas with a 18" sample cross received by Father Pragulbickas on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary of Priesthood. Mr.Stukas now built the parish a 16 foot perfect replica.

Following the blessing of the cross a dinner was held in the parish hall, 216 Ripley Place.

New wayside Cross



Blessed May 1, 1983

The burning of the mortgage was conducted on the stage with the assistance of Father Pragulbickas, Berth Delasey and John Morkis, church trustees, Lee Grynis, parish council president; and Elizabeth Fireman on Duty, Battalion Chief Raymond Zabita. (x)

The 80th birthday of Rev. Father Joseph Pragulbickas, was celebrated with a birthday cake and cup cakes with candles given by parishioners in appreciation of Father Pragulbickas' priestly service.

The birthday cake was presented by Isabelle Keturwitis, chairperson of the special event of blessing the Lithuanian Cross and burning of mortgage, May 1, 1983.

Sts. Peter and Paul (Lithuanian)
R.C. Church

William Senkus

William Senkus, parish
historian

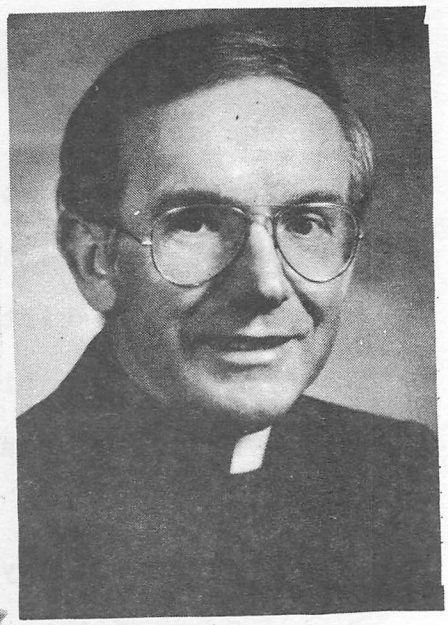
(x) In June, 1983, Battalion Fireman Chief Raymond Zabita, a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, was promoted to Deputy Chief.

HONOR ROLL

The following Societies of the Lithuanian Parish, no longer in existence today, have contributed overwhelmingly their support of the STS. PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Ripley Place, Elizabeth, New Jersey

1. St. Casimir Society founded in 1891.
2. St. George Society founded in 1894.
3. St. Joseph Society founded in 1900.
4. Elizabeth Lithuanian Citizens Club founded in 1900.
5. St. Peter and St. Paul Society founded in 1903.
6. St. Michael Society founded in 1904.
7. Holy Rosary Society founded in 1903.
8. St. Ann Society founded in 1907.

STS.PETER AND PAUL (LITHUANIAN) RC CHURCH
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY



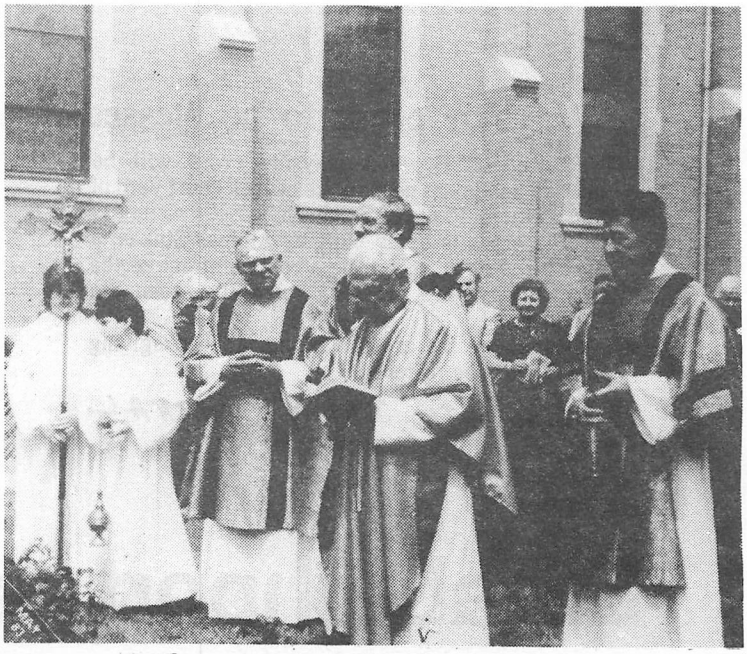
Father P. Zemeikis

Cross Erected by Efforts of Rev. Peter Zemeikis, Paster

The new Wayside Cross on the parish lawn, was crafted by parishioner--ALBINAS STUKAS.-(Seen above holding cross)

Continuing the Lithuanian tradition of Wayside Crosses

MAY 1,1983



Father J.Pragulbickas
blesses new cross

ALBINAS STUKAS
Constructed Wayside Cross

Source-Archdiocese "ADVOCATE"
Newspaper, May 4, 1983
By Ed Grant

It was a triple celebration at SS. Peter and Paul in Elizabeth May 1 and the Lithuanian community of the 'Port area turned out in full for the occasion.

There was the blessing of the new wayside cross on the parish lawn, crafted by parishioner Albin Stukas; the burning of the parish mortgage with the final payment being accepted by retired pastor Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas on behalf of the archdiocese; and, last but not least, the belated observance of Father Joseph's 80th birthday which had occurred earlier in the week.

On hand for the occasion was Elizabeth Mayor Thomas Dunn who paid tribute to the Lithuanian community "for all you have done in the past for the city of Elizabeth and for what you will do in the future."

The mayor said that there were times, in his 13 years as head of the state's fourth largest city, "when I was very worried about the 'Port. I thought that all of the people here would leave us. But I soon learned that I had nothing to worry about because of your loyalty to the Church and to the city."

The mayor said that the recent announcement of the sale of the old Singer plant, down the block from the parish plant on Ripley Pl., to the state "is the beginning of great things for the 'Port area." The plan is to develop an industrial park there which will provide several thousands of jobs.

Mayor Dunn also praised the parish school of SS. Peter and Paul, which, he said, "is making it possible to develop in this city boys and girls who will be our citizens of tomorrow."

He told how he often meets Portuguese parents who tell him how their children are being educated at SS. Peter and Paul and even learning a few Lithuanian phrases on the side.

"These people tell me how wonderful the Sisters are to their children," the mayor said, "and how much they think of Father Peter," a reference to Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor of the parish.

The wayside cross, a tradition in Eastern European countries, was blessed prior to the dinner in the parish hall, at which the mortgage was burned, leaving the 88-year-old parish free of debt.

Source-Archdiocese "Advocate"
Newspaper-May 4,1983

Wayside cross to be blessed

ELIZABETH — A wayside cross will be blessed Sunday at noon in the church court yard of Sts. Peter & Paul R.C. Church.

The cross is being built by Albinas Stukas, a parish member. It will be a replica of one of the many wayside crosses formerly seen in Lithuania.

Following the cross blessing, a Thanksgiving mass will be offered.

ELIZABETH DAILY JOURNAL

Ss. Peter and Paul sets mortgage burning

A mortgage burning ceremony for Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Elizabeth, will take place May 1. There will be a blessing of the Wayside Cross following a Thanksgiving Mass at 12 noon concelebrated by Rev. Peter Zemeikis, pastor & Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, Rev. Ronald Marczewski, Deacon Henry Keturwitis and Deacon Anthony Samalonis will assist.

Following the Mass there will be a dinner in the church hall at which the final mortgage payment of the Lithuanian church will be paid.

Elizabethport parish burns its mortgage

The Advocate May 4, 1983

Rev. Joseph Pragulbickas, pastor emeritus of SS. Peter and Paul, Elizabeth, burns the parish mortgage as Bertha Delasey, a parish trustee, and Lee Grynas, president of the parish council, assist. Fire Captain Raymond Zabita watches at left. The final payment on the mortgage left the 88-year-old parish free of debt.

Advocate photo by Ed Grant

Congratulations to Father Peter Zemeikis, Pastor, for making this memorable event possible.

Sts. Peter & Paul R. C. Church
211 Ripley Place
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07206

The Citizen Newspaper -Editor

November 30,1982

Dear Sir:

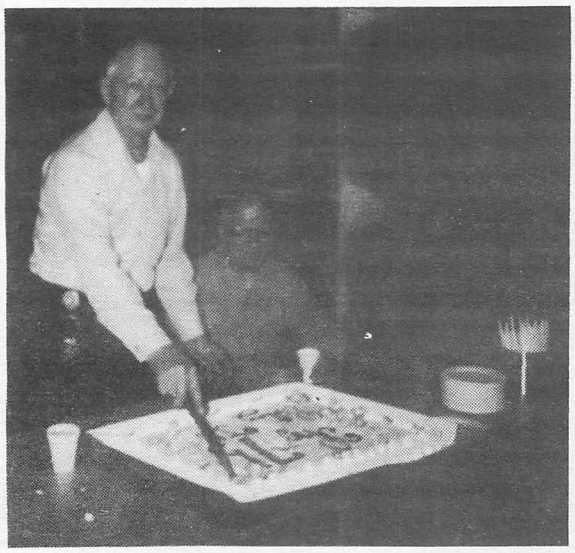
The Senior Citizens Club of Sts.Peter and Paul R.C.Church,Elizabeth was recently organized and is seeking new members to join the organization for a "second home in which to spend a little leisure time."

The Purpose of this club is to promote and stimulate new interests and to foster a larger measure of activity and friendship among the retired men and women of Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian parish.

Deacon Henry Keturwitis has been appointed Spiritual Director. Ann Senkus will be in charge of Programs and bus transportation. The next meeting will be held Monday, December 13 in the parish hall, beginning at 1 P.M.

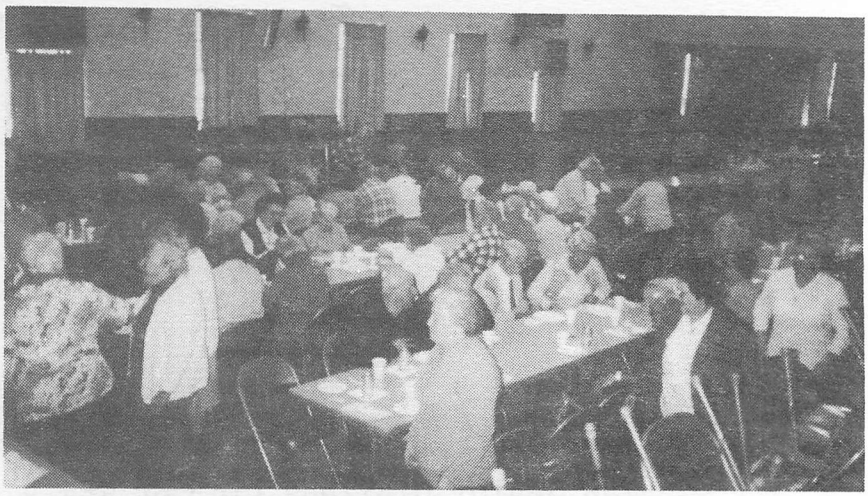
The club will hold various activities- a health program with swimmingLessons, card parties, bingo, speakers, films, day bus rides and birthday recognition. Members will meet every second and fourth Mondays of each month at the hall which is located at 214 Ripley Place,Elizabeth.

The officers of the Club are: President John Morkis; vice-president Walter Yuknavich; secretary Veronica Krezonis; treasurer Mildred Zalapukes;assistant secretary Julia Zielski; John Aktyl, asst.treasurer; William Senkus,Correspondent.

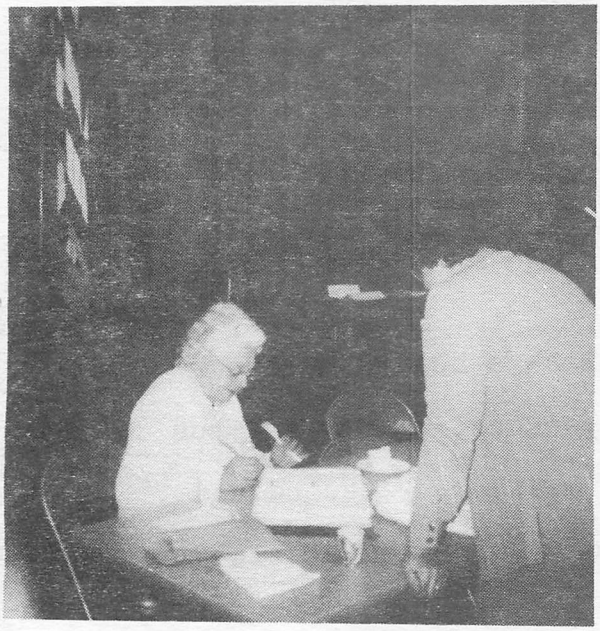


John Morkis,
President of the
Senior Citizens
Club of Sts.Peter
and Paul Church,
cuts cake on his
75th Birthday,
January, 1984

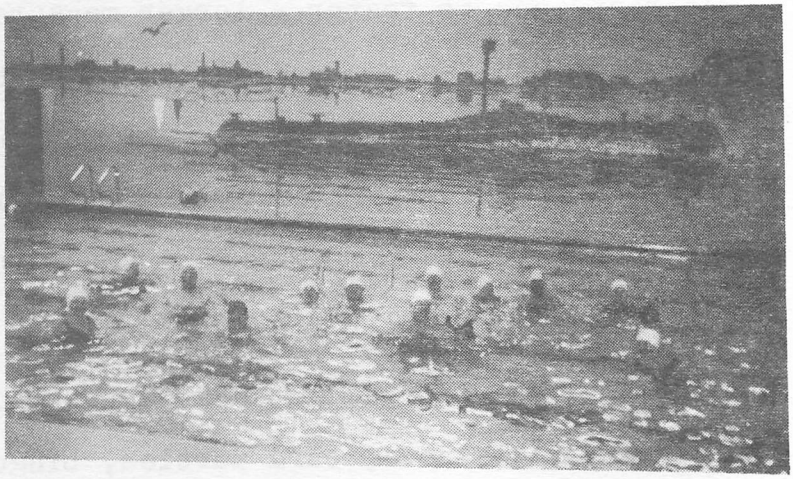
Members attend a surprize party in
observance of their presidents 75th Birthday



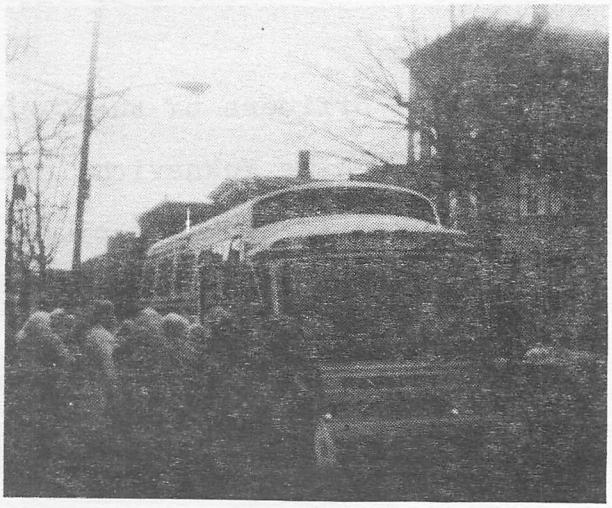
A Mural Painting
U.S.S.Holland,First Navy
Sub Built at Crescent Ship-
yards, Elizabethport,
Nov.1896



Ann Senkus,chairlady of
the Program and Transporta-
tion takes orders for trips
to Atlantic City Casinos,
Summer Trips & Dinner-Shows.



Senior Citizens members enjoy weekly swim at
George Washington School Pool, in Elizabeth,NJ



The most popular trips
are made to Atlantic City
Casinos.

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Moteru Sajungos Dr.-Ja-Chapter 66, Elizabeth,N.J.

The Lithuanian Catholic Women's Alliance is a national organication with the principal headquarters in Chicago,Illinois.

The local alliance chapter was founded in 1940 in the parish of Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church, Elizabeth.

Mrs.Anna Baltramaitis was elected first president and held this position for several years. Membership lasted until there were only 5 members left. It was then decided that these few members join the Linden,N.J. chapter.

Immediately, Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, assistant at Sts.Peter and Paul Church, requested Mrs.Justina Bunes to make a determined effort to seek new members.

Once started, Mrs. Bunes and Father Pragulbickas recruited additional 20 members for the Alliance.

Mrs.Justina Bunes was immediately elected president and held that principal office for 32 years. With her retirement, Mrs. Bunes, was succeeded by her daughter, Mrs.Christina Ochs, as president.

The Lithuanian Catholic Woman's Alliance is a national organization of both married and single girls.

Its purpose is the dedication of preserving the Lithuanian culture and language. The organization raises money to help future Lithuanian priests who are in need of funds to continue their education and secure necessary means for helping Lithuanian children to further their college education.

The local alliance, at present sponsors an annual dinner at the parish hall. Prizes are awarded to the winners. This gives an opportunity for members to get-together and socialize.

The profit realized from the baking by members and the sale of of Pyraga Bread(Home made Lithuanian bread), t o members and friends help to pay part of the dinner expense.

After the dinner, a contribution or donation of money is always made to the church.

Honoring Justina Bunes 32 years of service to Moterų Sąjungos Society

Seated:Rev.J.Pragulbickas

Honored Guest-Justina Bunes

Rev.Peter Zemeikis,Pastor

Christina Ochs,President of Sajunges-Alliance

Standing-Ruth Kidzius
Deacon Henry Keturwitis
Ona Lanys
Deacon Anthony Samalonis
Josephine Martinkus,President, Maldos Apostolystes Society

By Isabelle Keturwitis

October- 1954

ELIZABETH DAILY JOURNAL reported 300 Witness Mortgage Burning At Lithuanian Liberty Hall.

Obligations Wiped Out: Flames consume Lithuanian Liberty Hall mortgage papers in ceremony Saturday night marking completion of mortgage payments. Looking on the stage, left to right, were: Boleslaw Mackevich, director for 30 years; George Budris, first president; Mayor Nicholas S.LaCorte and John S.Reedy, current president.

More than 300 persons witnessed the burning of mortgage papers Saturday, October 2,1954, signifying completion of payments on Lithuanian Liberty Hall amounting to $63,000. Many public officials, shareholders, guest and friends joined in the celebration, which was held at the hall, 269 Second St.,Elizabeth.

Deputy Atty.Gen.James T.Kirk was principal speaker, recalling his association with Lithuanians in Elizabeth for the past 25 years. Mr.Kirk, who has been legal adviser to the association for that length of time, felicitated theorganization on its milestone.

Mayor LaCorte congratulated the members of their foresight in building a place for their cultural, patriotic and civic activities, and praised their thrift in paying off the obligation.

Good wishes also were expressed by Rep. Harrison A.Williams, Jr.,Democratic candidate for re-election to Congress; J.Frank O'Donnell, Democratic nominee for mayor; Councilman Thomas A. "Bob" Ford of the First Ward; Magistrate John L.McGuire,Rev. Michael G.Kemezis,pastor of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian R.C. Church(Ripley Place), and Frank J.Geier of the United Clubs of Elizabeth.

Among the messages of congratulation was one from Gov. Robert B.Meyer.

The invocation was by Father Kemezis. Miss Carol Bowen, soloist of St.Peter and St.Paul's Church, sang, as did members of the parish choir. There also were songs by Dominick(Petrucionis) Patrick and Daniel Svenciunas, accompanied by Joseph Zilevicius. Dancing followed.

The general committee consisted of-George Budris,Chairman; William Senkus, Secretary and Historian; Boleslaw Mackevich, Treasurer; Walter J.Drescher, Assistant Treasurer;Dominick (Petrucionis) Patrick, Tickets; John Oskutis and Arthur Potts, Advertisement and Souvenir Booklet; John S.Reedy, Entertainment; Louis Sliazis and John Krezonis, Decorations.

Refreshments committee-- Mrs.Eleanor Zemeckis, Mrs. Anna Pilus, Mrs.Eva Vaiculevich, Rocus(Petrucionis) Patrick, Stephen Pinkin, Joseph Cerneckis and Anthony Stasanauskas

ALPHONSE(Vauculevich) VAICH, was the Toastmaster.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal

October 4,1954

LITHUANIAN LIBERTY HALL, 269-273 SECOND ST., ELIZABETH, N.J.

"Elizabeth Daily Journal" MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4, 1954

OBLIGATION WIPED OUT. Flames consume Lithuanian Liberty Hall mortgage papers in ceremony Saturday night marking completion of mortgage payments. Looking on, left to right, are Boleslaw Mackevich, director for 30 years; George Budris, first president; Mayor Nicholas S. LaCarte and John S. Reedy, current president.

300 Witness Mortgage Burning At Lithuanian Liberty Hall

Kirk in Tribute

Deputy Atty. Gen. James T. Kirk was principal speaker, recalling his association with Lithuanians in Elizabeth for the past 25 years. Mr. Kirk, who has been legal adviser to the corporation for that length of time, felicitated the organization on its milestone.

Mayor LaCorte congratulated the members on their foresight in building a place for their cultural, patriotic and civic activities, and praised their thrift in paying off the obligation.

Good wishes also were expressed by Rep. Harrison A. Williams Jr., Democratic candidate for reelection to Congress; J. Frank O'Donnell, Democratic nominee for mayor; Councilman Thomas A. Ford of the First Ward; Magistrate John L. McGuire, Rev. Michael G. Kemezis, pastor of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, and Frank Geier of the United Clubs of Elizabeth.

Meyner Message

Among the messages of congratulation was one from Gov. Robert B. Meyner.

In recognition of their contribution to the athletic history of the hall since it was opened, the names of 10 groups and their members were placed in the Lithuanian Hall of Fame.

The groups, some of which no longer are active, were listed as follows: Elizabeth Council 52, Knights of Lithuania; Lithuanian Liberty Boys A. C., Lithuanian Club, Lithuanian Big Five, St. Peter's and St. Paul's Catholic Club, Downtown Democratic Club, Downtown World War II Veterans, Fontan's bowling team and Big Paul's bowling team.

The invocation was by Father Kemezis. Miss Carol Bowen, soloist of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, sang, as did members of the parish choir. There also were songs by Dominick Patrick and Daniel Svenciunas, accompanied by Joseph Zilevicius. Dancing followed.

Corporation officers, besides Mr. Reedy, are: Vice president, William Senkus; treasurer, Walter J. Drescher; financial secretary, Alphonse Vaiculevich; recording secretary, Arthur Potts, and assistant recording secretary, John Oskutis.

Also placed in the Hall of Fame were:

Elizabeth Lithuanian Knights (E.L.K.'s)

1954

Lithuanian Liberty Hall proposed and proudly nominated to the LITHUANIAN HALL OF FAME the following organization for their outstanding and athletic activities in and near Lithuanian Liberty Hall.

E. L. K.'s (Elizabeth Lithuanian Knights)
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA, ELIZABETH COUNCIL 52
LITHUANIAN LIBERTY BOYS A. C.
LITHUANIAN CLUB
LITHUANIAN BIG FIVE
STS. PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC CLUB (regulars and old timers)
DOWNTOWN DEMOCRATIC CLUB
DOWNTOWN WORLD WAR II VETERANS
FONTAN'S BOWLING TEAM
BIG PAUL'S BOWLING TEAM

Lithuanian Liberty Hall also nominated to the Lithuanian Liberty Hall of Fame the following athletes who have made history during the 1920s.

From E. L. K.'s (Elizabeth Lithuanian Knights)

BASEBALL

Adolph Brazinski, S. Burkowski, J. Mattis, F. Roden, A. Serefin, F. Sidar, A. Yuskauskas, S. Sidar, C. Bokenko, W. Vansavage, P. Smith, S. Steponavicius, J. Urban and "Ceasar."

BASKETBALL

A. Bjorsted, A. Brazinski, S. Burkowski, B. Mack, J. Mattis, F. Rholick, F. Roden, J. Ryan, A. Patalkis, J. Patalkis, F. Sidar and W. Yankin.

TRACK

From Knights of Lithuania, Elizabeth Council 52 during late 1920s and early 1930s. Sponsored annually by N. Y. & N. J. District K. of L. at Warinanco Park.

MEN

G. Adickus, C. Baltramaitis, C. Berzanskis, L. Berzanskis, P. Cotton, D. Gaines, J. Gaines, C. Gawalis, V. Gaudiesus, J. Grinchis, J. Laucius, J. Milukas, C. Peskus, E. Petrovic, G. Pranskaitis, J. Richkus, S. Richkus, J. White and S. Zidtoweskis, F. Jankunas, E. Kalainikas, J. Kneser, A. Lakasky and V. Lakasky

WOMEN

S. Bogda, M. Butkus, A. Gawalis, B. Gulbin, A. Motches, E. Jankunas, A. Savick, L. Savick and A. Yeckty.

BOWLING

From Lithuanian Liberty Boys' A. C. during the 1920s and 1930s.

C. Allen, C. Bokenko, C. Cells, S. Koblis, W. Koblis, P. Laura, A. Murzinski, M. Murzinski, A. Potts, J. Potts, M. Reakus, W. Shade and G. Yorke.

From "Lithuanian Club" during the 1930s.

C. Bokenko, F. Glinka, M. Gaines, D. Mattis, A. Murzinski, A. Potts, J. Potts, B. Yankin and G. Yorke.

From "Lithuanian Big Five" during the 1930s.

BASKETBALL

C. Grinchis, W. Gulbin, B. Kaye, A. Kazilionis, J. Kazilionis, E. McElroy, A. Paskiewicz and E. Zack.

From "Elizabeth Knights of Lithuania, Council 52" during the 1930s.

BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL

J. Berzanskis, L. Berzanskis, P. Cotton, D. Gaines, V. Gaudiesus, J. Gedman, C. Kakstis, J. Kazalonis, A. Kazalonis, V. Kazalonis, A. Mackevich, A. Mickewicz, J. Pecukaitis, J. Ryan, W. Yankin, E. Zack, and J. Zalapukas.

BOWLING during 1930s, 1940s and to 1950s.

MEN

G. Butkus, W. Drescher, J. Degutis, J. Gedman, X. Josephs, J. Kizelevich, P. Laura, L. Mack, J. Matusevicius, J. Matuza, P. Newallis, J. Oskutis, C. Oskutis, A. Oskutis, A. Pinkin, J. Plungis, S. Potts, M. Reakus, C. Rusteika, A. Seikunas, C. Surplis, J. Pakstis, A. Vaiculevich, V. Yorke, L. Yanulavich, V. Zakarevich, and J. Zaluta, W. Petrucionis.

WOMEN

Miss H. Balandis, Miss M. Butkus, Mrs. A. Degutis, Miss E. Potts, Miss V. Krezonis, Miss A. Krezonis, Miss A. Kirvel, Mrs. G. Matuza, Miss A. Mitchell, Mrs. V. Naryauckas, Mrs. A. Onda, Mrs. M. Oskutis, Miss H. Pinkin, Mrs. E. Pado, Miss A. Staboris, Mrs. H. Zwingle and Mrs. L. Papalis.

From Sts. Peter and Pauls' Catholic Club during the 1940s.

BASKETBALL

REGULARS

W. Baron, C. Crowicz, F. Galy, F. Gil, A. Green, R. Hamley, J. Higgins, C. Holland, J. Koscal, P. Krauss, E. Lauermann, W. McKeon, Jr., W. McKeon, E. Pasko, R. Plezia, F. Ruzga, J. Saranczak, G. Semen and J. Zvirblys.

OLD TIMERS

R. Barry, P. Cotton, J. Degutis, E. Brazinski, D. Gaines, W. Gulbin, V. Gaudesius, S. Gostautas Jr., C. Grinchis, F. Grinchis, A. Kazalonis, V. Kazalonis, J. Kazalonis, R. Kane, A. Klebosis, S. Krezonis, E. Marting, C. Mattis, A. Potts, J. Ryan, J. Seleonis, F. Yankin, E. Zack and J. Zalapukas.

From the "Downtown Democratic Club" during 1930s in BOWLING, who have won the City League more times than any other club and have posted the highest scores for single game and three game high at Lithuanian Liberty Hall bowling alleys. W. Witt, A. Potts, M. Gaines, A. Murzinski, M. Murzinski, F. Glinka, C. Bokenko, J. Mattis, C. Allen, and F. Bluse.

Lithuanian Liberty Hall Association with Members and Guest attending a special event at its headquarters and home, 269-273 Second St., Elizabeth, N.J., including Msgr. Michael G. Kemezis, Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

DINNER-DANCE
On the occasion of their
Mortgage Burning Celebration
LITHUANIAN LIBERTY HALL, INC.

OCTOBER 2,1954

Lithuanian Liberty Hall is 50 Years Old

1924 to 1974

Anniversary Dinner, October 5,1974

A large number of Lithuanians began to arrive in Elizabeth, N.J., in 1878.

To make a living, these future Lithuanian-Americans, were attracted for employment at the Singer sewing machine plant in Elizabethport,N.J. (In 1982, the Singer Plant was permanently closed).

In addition to The Singer Mfg.Co., the settlers worked also in ship-building, oil refining and in chemical as well as in other production.

At one time the number of Lithuanian-Americans living in Elizabeth and in suburban communities of Union County numbered less than 5,000 persons.

Since these immigrants did not have their own church at the beginning, therefore, they attended the services at St.Patrick's Church,on Court St.

It was obvious there was an urgent need to have their own church and a place for social gatherings.

St.Peter and St.Paul Lithuanian parish in Elizabeth,N.J., was founded in 1895, and it was located on Ripley Place; the parish grammar school was opened in 1913, and school exercises and graduating programs were held in St.Patrick's High School. Lutwin's Hall on Front St.& St.Park Street became very popular for social programs for Lithuanian-Americans.

When LITHUANIA became a Free and Independent Republic on February 16,1918, the national awareness and pride among the Lithuanian-Americans in Elizabeth became considerably evident. For example they purchased $35,000. worth of bond of Lithuania.

The idea to acquire a building of their own for Lithuanian American activities was born in 1921, "to provide a recreation and social center for the Lithuanian people in the city of Elizabeth."

Bruno Kopustaitis suggested the new name of the association should be-Lithuanian Liberty Hall-- and it was approved soon thereafter. The corner stone was laid in 1924 with an impressive ceremony which was participated by prominent Lithuanian-American leaders and representatives of Elizabeth.

The building was completed and opened to the public, for Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians, for youth and the elderly spirited people, in October, 1924.

A bar was available to the public. The four bowling alleys were replaced to make room for a meeting place. In addition to an auditorium type hall and meetings rooms were available to secure income for the Liberty Hall association. Lithuanians at last had a home which they could call their own.

Following World War II, 320 new Lithuanian immigrants from war-town Germany settled in Elizabeth and Liberty Hall became a center of activities for numerous Lithuanian activities and organizations. They were welcomed and found a friendly shelter here.

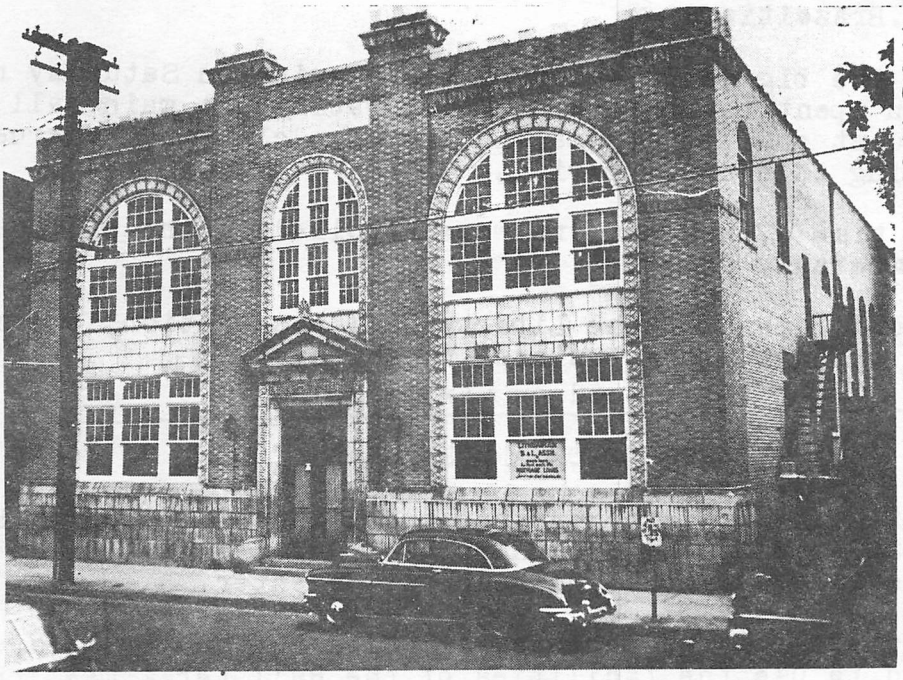
Lithuanian Liberty Hall officer, directors, and member-shareholders congratulated each other and toasted all the Lithuanian friends upon this happy 50 year jubilee occasion and wished that this house of social gatherings and good cheer will have many more happy returns.

Source-Lithuanian Liberty Hall's

50th Anniversary

Oct.5,1974 Souvenir Program Booklet

J.V. AND Committee



AT THE LITHUANIAN LIBERTY HALL
269-73 SECOND STREET, ELIZABETH, N. J.

The "STORY OF LITHUANIAN LIBERTY HALL" was written by William A.Senkus and was published in 1981. It covered the period from 1924 to 1979. The association was terminated in 1980 when the building was sold.

LITHUANIAN LIBERTY BOYS ATHLETIC CLUB

The members of Lithuanian Liberty Boys A.C., held their monthly meetings on the second floor Club-room of Liberty Hall building, 269 Second St.,Elizabeth. Sandwiches and brew were served after meetings.

Charles M.Brazaitis was president of the club for four successive terms. He was succeeded by Cyril J.Gober as president.

Mr.Brazaitis, the retiring president,congratulated the bowling team, directed by Peter Laura(Lauranaitis) and Michael Reakus for its standing in the city bowling league; and the basketball team for its successful season, with Louis Berzanskis, as manager and director, and Frank Jankunas assisting.

Other officers who served the club with distinction were: George F.Baron, Anthony Lucas, Frank Jankunas and Benjamin Pinkiewicz as Vice-presidents.
Charles Allen and William A.Senkus as Secretaries.
Cyril J.Gober(4 terms) and George F.Baron as Treasurers.
Stephen A.Motches and John Kalain as Financial Secretaries.
John Kalanta as club-house committeeman.
Mr.Brazaitis,Adam J.Naiva and Stephen W.Burke as Trustees.

The club's social or dance committee had bartenders,ticket sellers and ticket collectors, at different times which consisted of Messr. Motches, Baron,Gober, Laura,Pinkiewicz, Senkus,Kalain,Jankunas, Benjamin Mattis, Frank Koblis, Adolph Mattis,Frank Shimonis, Edward Kalainikas, Joseph Zindzius,Anthony Samalionis,John Shimonis,Peter Scully, Joseph Naiva, Adam Naiva, Matthew Vaktor and former president Mr.Brazaitis.

Before the big dance event of the evening on Saturday nights, committee men spent the entire week decorating the main hall which pleasedthe guest and the general public. The club-room was used as a lounge during this dance period.

At one time 47 new members were enrolled in the club during a special membership drive.

As goodwill men for the Liberty Hall association, the members generated or brought extra business to the hall.

(Continued on next page)

END OF AN ERA

The Lithuanian-Americans operated Lithuanian Liberty Hall for 55 years at 269-273 Second St., Elizabeth,N.J., beginning in October, 1924, as a social, cultural and recreation center.

In addition to the members, all Elizabethan people and others were welcomed to use the facilities of the Hall for a meeting place.

Prior to 1924, Lithuanians held their meetings, social gatherings, dances and banquets at Lutwin's Hall, in Elizabeth.

In 1979, due to the Recession and Inflation period, and the continued economic uncertainty, therefore, the members voted to sell the building and Liberty Hall was sold on August 4,1980.

LITHUANIAN LIBERTY BOYS A.C.

It was a custom of the club-members to visit social halls which donated silver trophies to the public for club members most represented. Members marched two by two in a parade line, numbering from 20 to 40 members in a show of attendance. They were jubilant in winning many trophies.

In addition to sport programs, Liberty Boys' A.C. sponsored dances in Liberty Hall with popular orchestras furnishing music for dancing, namely Ernie Kricket and his WOR radio orchestra plus Johnny Allen and orchestra and Wally Roman and his orchestra.

Popular places visited in groups to win trophies were at the Falcons Hall on Third St., Polish National Home on First St., and dances sponsored by the "Red Aces Club" at the Ukraininan Hall on Fulton St.

Members also attended socials or dances in out of town Lithuanian Social Centers.

During the Great Depression and with many members unemployed the membership went on. record and voted to disband the club.

As a final gesture, trophies and furniture were distributed to its members.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Jonmal
Sept.& Oct.1931

BRAZAITIS AGAIN HEADS LITHUANIAN LIBERTY BOYS

Charles M. Brazaitis was re-elected president of the Lithuanian Liberty Boys, Inc., for his fourth successive term at a recent meeting of the organization at its headquarters, 269 Second street. Other officers named are: Vice-president, George F. Baron; secretary, William A. Senkus; financial secretary, Stephen A. Motches; treasurer, Cyril J. Gober; trustees, Adam J. Naiva and Stephen W. Burke. Mr. Gober also begins his fourth consecutive term.

Plans for the organization's third annual dance September 26 at its headquarters were discussed. The committee in charge, consisting of Messrs. Motches and Baron reported arrangements are complete. Refreshments were served.

Theater Party

The Lithuanian Liberty Boys' Athletic Club recently held a theater party in New York City. Later the members returned to the clubhouse at 269 Second street where refreshments were enjoyed. Those present were G. Francis Baron, Charles M. Brazaitis, Walter Bialecki, Cyril J. Gober, Peter L. Laura, Adolph Mattis, Stephen A. Motches, Joseph Naiva, Edward E. Patrick, Benjamin Pinkiewicz, Anthony Samalionis, Peter Scully, William A. Senkus, Frank and John Shimonis, Matthew Vaktor and Francis T. Yankin.

...e Lithuanian Liberty Boys' ...c Club, Inc., completed plans ...ent meeting in the clubhouse, ... Second street, for a dance Februa... Benjamin Mattis, Peter Laura Frank Koblis are in charge of arra... ments.

The club voted to continue its m... bership drive until March. Membe... the committee are Stephen W. Bu... Joseph W. Naiva and Charles Brazaitis.

Dances

A large attendance marked the annual mid-year dance given Saturday night by the Lithuanian Liberty Boys' Athletic Club at 269 Second street. Guests were present from Elizabeth, Linden, Rahway, Newark, Kear... Harrison, Paterson, Bayonne and Bro... yn. Benjamin Mattis was in cha... arrangements.

Dances

Four hundred guests were present Saturday night at the fourth annua... dance given by the Lithuanian Liberty Boys' Athletic Club in the clubhouse, 269 Second street. Guests were present from Newark, Bayonne, Linden and Paterson. The committee, headed by Stephen A. Motches, was composed of Cyril J. Gober, G. Francis Baron, Francis T. Yankin, William A. Senkus, Frank Shimonis, Anthony Samalionis, Benjamin Pinkiewicz, Adolph Mattis, Adam Naiva, John Shimonis, Peter Scully, Joseph Naiva, Peter Laura, Matthew Vaktor and Charles M. Brazaitis.

Election of officers was held the previous night resulting as follows: President, Cyril J. Gober; vice-president, Benjamin Pinkiewicz; treasurer, Francis Baron; recording secret...y, ...am A. Senkus, and financial ...tephen A. Motches.

Boys' Athletic Club.

Forty-seven new members were enrolled in the Lithuanian Liberty Boys' Athletic Club at a meeting Sunday at the clubhouse, 269 Second street. Arrangements for a dance Saturday evening were discussed. Members of the committee include Frank Koblis, Peter Laura, Benjamin Mattis, Cyril J. Gober, William A. Seukus, G. Francis Baron, Adolph Mattis, Frank Shimons, John Kalain, Edward Kalain and Joseph Ziudzius.

LITHUANIAN BROTHERS SOCIETY

OR

LIETUVIU BROLIU DRAUGYSTE

ELIZABETH,N.J.

The "Lietuviu Broliu Draugyste" or "Lithuanian Brothers Society" was established around 1920 in the Bayway Area of Elizabeth,N.J. Possibly as a result of the influenza epidemic or World War I problems, a small group of Lithuanian men(mostly from McKinley Street and Brunswick Ave.) decided to join together for mutual help and support.

They established formal group, named themselves the "Lietuviu Broliu Draugyste," and met monthly in a small rented hall on Brunswick Avenue. Their dues were set at fifty cents a month.

My father, BRUNO LAUCIUS, was elected to be the first president of the organization. The other charter members, I believe, were:

Joseph Abraitis, John Borgis(Barcas),-- Brazaitis, Frank Gapch,Sr., Paul Gapch,Sr. Frank Gavelis, Simon Gavelis,William Kairait, George Kazlauskas,Sr., Frank Kominsky, Frank Laucius,Sr., Joseph Laucius,Dominic Laurinas, John Laurinas,Adam Naiva, John Norusis, Frank Stankus, — Sukis, Joseph Viczas, John Waskis

a few of these may not be charter members, but joined as soon as they moved into the neighborhood in the early '20s.

Their stated purposes included:

1. To help each other for any need in times of illness and/or death.

2. To provide financial assistance in case of the death of a member ($100 was given toward funeral expenses) (A small sick benefit was also provided)

3. To schedule members for:
   (a) regular visitation of ill members
   (b) "honor guard" during the night at wakes of deceased members(2 men for each 4 hour period)
   (c) pall bearer service(six or as required)

4. To arrange social and cultural activities for the members and their families, such as:

   (a) An annual dinner and dance in the fall.
   (b) An annual picnic and dance in the summer.
   (c) Bus and "truck" rides to Staten Island beaches or Matawan Lake on summer Sundays for members, families and friends.

5. To welcome new Lithuanian families moving into the area and help them to get established.

6. To provide an avenue thru which the group could work on any activities which affected the Lithuanian(paving of streets,improved street lighting, etc.)

7. To carry out fund-raising activities to increase the treasury.

8. To participate in events or activities as representatives of the Lithuanian people. (For example, they entered a float in the Elizabeth Historical and Ethnic Celebration in 1926.) and finally,

9. To build a real spirit of being a"Lithuanian family" in the community.

The Society successfully continued its activities, increasing its membership from the original small group to about thirty men as new families moved into the area.

In the early thirties, the Society opened its membership to women and tho it was still officially called the "Lietuviu Broliu Draugyste", in actuality it became the "Lietuviu Broliu ir Seseriu Draugyste" since women were immediately elected to the Executive Board. In fact, I served for many years as Secretary-Treasurer of the organization.

Membership reached a peak of approximately fifty members in the late thirties or early forties, but gradually declined thereafter as the elders died and as many of the families moved from the Bayway area into surrounding communities..

The final exodus occurred as a result of the construction of the New Jersey Turnpike, when many properties were sold and the owners scattered in many directions.

The Society formally disbanded sometime in the '50s, I believe, dividing its treasury among the surviving members.

The Society during its life served admirably the purposes for which it was organized. It kept alive the spirits of neighborliness and brotherhood among the Lithuanians who had emigrated from their native land and had set their roots in a small area of Elizabeth. The former "Lietuviu Broliu ir Seseriu" still maintain a feeling of warmth and family affection which they had shared over a number of decades.

There really was a spirit there that would be great in any neighborhood. Almost all the "old-timers" are gone now.

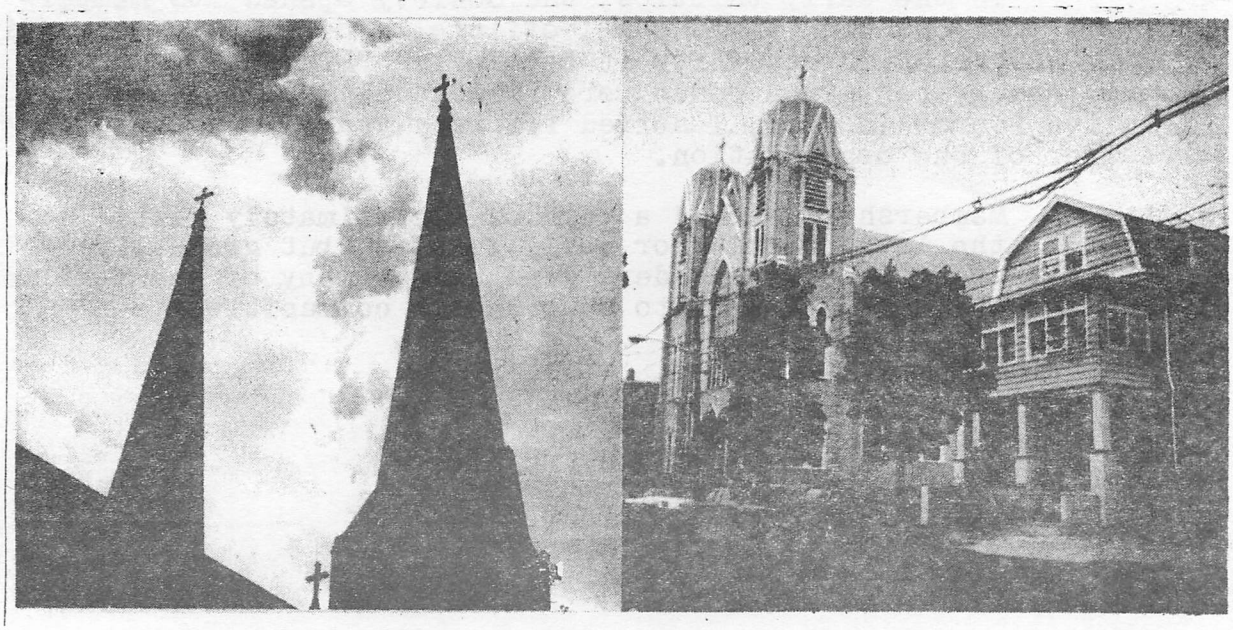
Signed: Stephanie Eve Laucius
September 15,1982

Miss Stephanie Laucius served the Elizabeth school system for forty-five years as teacher,principal, and director of secondary education.

From the book- "Elizabethtown &
Union County- A Pictorial
History- The year 1982

STS.PETER AND PAUL LITHUANIAN R.C.CHURCH

Church with Spires ELIZABETH, N.J. Church without Spires



LITHUANIAN WOMEN'S CITIZENS CLUB

10th Anniversary - 1954 -Elizabeth,N.J.

The Lithuanian Women's Citizens Club celebrated its tenth anniversary at a dinner at Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second St. About 240 persons attended.

Speakers were Deputy Attorney Gen.James T.Kirk, Rep.Harrison A.Williams Jr.of Plainfield,Democratic candidate for re-election; Third Ward Councilman Edward S.Bielski, Democrat seeking re-election, and J.Frank O'Donnell,Democratic candidate for mayor.

Also,Jack J.Stukas,Lithuanian radio announcer; Mrs.Julia Usonis, secretary of the club;Mrs.Ann Townsend, recording secretary; John Reedy and William Senkus, officers of Liberty Hall; Mrs. Theodora Buckeyser, president of Auxiliary No.4, Ancient Order of Hibernians; and Sylvan Zipper, chairman of the City Planning Board.

Mr. Kirk recalled the start of the group, which includes many members who obtained citizenship papers through his assistance. Mrs. Mary M.Martin, founder and president, Mrs.T ownsend and Mrs. Usonis also helped women through naturalization proceedings and familiarized them later with voting procedures, it was related.

Congressman Williams spoke of Lithuanians' quest for freedom behind the Iron Curtain and commended the club for its activities. He particularly praised Mrs. Martin for her work.

Mrs.Martin was chairman of arrangements and toastmaster. Assisting on the committee were Mrs.Matilda Grochmal, Mrs. Isabelle Degutis, Mrs. Justina Bunes , Mrs.Mary Analonis and Mrs.Phyllis Luckas.

Source: Elizabeth Daily Journal
November 1,1954.

A letter from Mary Martin -dated April 22, 1969

Dear Bill:

By word of mouth, people c ame to me te ask how they could become citizens. I started to teach these people how to read and write in English.

When I saw how many people started to come to my home to become citizens of the United States,I thought something had to be done to help these people.

So in 1945 with a first group of ten people sitting in my Dining Room, the Lithuanian Women's Citizens Club was formed.

Throughout the years I would say about 1,160 people have become citizens through our clubs efforts.

The last person requiring my services, was Father Pragulbickas of Sts.Peter and Paul Church, who applied for his citizenship on the 25th of April,1969.

We met once a month at Lithuanian Liberty Hall,Elizabeth.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Mary M. Martin

PS- (Mrs.Martin was a Lithuanian Civic and Political Leader).

LITHUANIAN S & L MARKS 50 YEARS November, 1963

The growth and strength of the Lithuanian Savings & Loan Association were praised Saturday, November 9, 1963 at dinner and dance marking its 50th anniversary. More than 200 persons attended the affair in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269 Second St.,Elizabeth,N.J.

State Commissioner of Banking and Insurance Charles R. Howell praised the fine work of the association's officials. He pointed out that the association possesses strong reserves and good liquidity.

Charles J.Grinchis, association solicitor, recalled the work done by his father, the late Enoch(Grincius) Grinchis, and his colleagues,namely- President John Dopkus; Vice-Presidents, Matthew Saliklis, Anthony Pranskietis; Treasurer Simon(Makauskas) Mack;Secretary William H.Binger; Lithuanian Secretary Joseph Zalonis;and the following directors, Michael Budrecki, Martin Budreckis, August Lutwin, Michael Butenas, Mr.Grinchis-Grincius, Adolf Gritzmacher, Anton Zailskas, Anton Kluczinskas, August Zindzius and Peter Sujeta. The first solicitor was Charles J.Stamler. (Information taken from the constitution booklet published in 1915)

Elizabeth Magistrate John L. McGuire pointed out that the task of the association'sfounders was a most difficult one.

Joseph Akulonis,Sr. the association's president, related some of the events of his 50 years as a member, a director, vice-president and president.

The association's secretary,Joseph Akulonis,Jr. reviewed its strong financial position.

Former Elizabeth Mayor James T.Kirk, a director of the association, was toastmaster. The invocation was given by Rt.Rev. Mgr.Michael G.Kemezis, pastor of St.Peter and St.Paul's Lithuanian R.C. Church, and benediction by Rev.Joseph Pragulbickas, a curate or associate at the church.

During dinner, Miss Edna Mack sang, accompanied at the piano by Algirdas Kacanauskas. A trio, consisting of Miss Nellie Savokaitis, Miss Eileen Kidzus and Miss Mack, also sang.

Current officers of the association are: Joseph Akulonis, President; Steven R.Potts,Vice-President; Joseph J.Akulonis,Jr. Secretary; William A. Senkus, Treasurer; and Charles J.Grinchis, Solicitor.

Directors serving are: Dr. Stasys Petrauskas, James T. Kirk, Joseph Markowitz,John S.Reedy, Frank J.Ruzga, Theodore Gursky, Stephan H.Dobilas, Dominick(Petrucionis)Patrick and Stanley Valatka.

Source-Elizabeth Daily Journal
November 12,1963

LIBERTY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASS'N.
(Formerly Lithuanian S.& L.Ass'n.)

70th Anniversary---- 1913 to 1983

ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY

Seventy years ago in October,1913, a group of Lithuanians in Elizabeth,N.J., had a wonderful dream- a plan whereby a savings institution, the LITHUANIAN BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, organized in the city in the Port Section, under their leadership and sponsorship could help their members and shareholders acquire systematic savings and eventual home ownership.

Lithuanian B.& L. Association celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 25, 1938 with a banquet in Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269-273 Second Street, Elizabeth,N.J.

The Board of Directors on August 26,1953, voted to change the association name to Lithuanian Savings and Loan Association.

On November 9, 1963, the Lithuanian Savings and Loan Ass'n., celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner and dance in Lithuanian Liberty Hall. John S.Reedy was Chairman and Joseph Akulionis,President.

In October of 1980, the name was changed from "Lithuanian Savings and Loan Association" to "Liberty Savings and Loan Association." The Board of Directors took this step with the view in mind of attracting a broader base of depositors with the association.

In November, 1980- "Liberty Savings and Loan Association" moved to a building at 630 First Ave.,Elizabeth,N.J.

On October 23, 1983, the Liberty S.& L.Association celebrated its 70th anniversary with a buffet and liquid refreshments for all shareholders and customers of the financial institution. Frank Ruzga was chairman of the Social.

Past presidents serving the association were:

John Dopkus
George Budris
Frank Savick
Michael Saliklis
John A.Patrick,Jr.
Ignas Budrecki
Joseph Akulonis,Sr.

Steven Potts(Pocius) is now serving as President.

OFFICERS

STEVEN POTTS.....President
FRANK SHOBAN.....Vice President
MATTHEW WADE.....Attorney
GEORGE RAGAGLIA.....Secretary, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Term Expires 1983
AL BALANDIS
FRANK RUZGA
OLGA STANZIALE

Term Expires 1984
WALTER MELINIS
WILLIAM SENKUS
JOSEPH SAFARYN

Term Expires 1985
RUTH KIDZIUS
JOHN POTTS
JAMES STOKAS

An article written by a Lithuanian-American

After 109 years of service as an employer, The Singer Co., of Elizabethport, N.J., closed its manufacturing plant.

June 15,1983

After one year in the 25 Year Club,the members elected me as Vice-President of the organization.One year later,about 1964,I was elected President.I held this position for 13 years,until I became a 40 Year member.I then resigned after my term was up.

During my tenure as head of the 25 Year Club,my Committee and I instituted a revival of making the best of the Singer Recreation Building, which in my opinion,was the best hall in Elizabeth,and still is,even though it is now closed.

We held four dances a year,which included a season's end,about in November,a Dinner-Dance which included six acts of New York vaudeville. The affair started out with about 400 people attending,and towards the end of the Recreation Building,we had 700 people and was forced to limit the number of tickets that could be sold.

We had novel dances,as New Year's Eve in September,where we had all the trimmings,noise makers,hars,etc.There were two orchestras for the affair.For Hawaiian Nite we had six whole pigs roasted and all the rest of the paraphernalia that went with this praticular nite.We brought in twelve-piece bands and two bands at some of our dances.

We ran rides to different and interesting places.I will never forget the first one we held.It consisted of having dinner,cocktails and Hors Doeuores,prime ribs of beef at the Recreation Building,then leaving by bus to Jones Beach to see a show.Refreshments were served on the bus going and returning.The cost at that time(1965)was $25.00 per couple. I was told by some members of my committee that the price was a little too high and they doubted if it would be a success.

There was a certain amount of risk involved.Tickets had to be purchased and paid for in advance,for two buses were hired.So indeed,if 96 tickets were not sold,you ate 'em.Needless to say it was an instant success.From then on to 1978,all trips consisted of five buses,48 people in a bus,for a total of 240 people.We were constantly sold out for the affair long before the time scheduled.

Our rides consisted of trip to Cherry Hill in New Jersey to see a show and have dinner;trip to Mystic Seaport in Connecticut,trip to the Amish Country in Pennsylvania,to the Philadelphia Convention Hall in Pennsylvania to see the best in the Mummer's Parade and from there to a dinner and show at the Hawaiian Cottage.We went on four trips to different wineries with dinner after the affair.These trips and dances were a huge success for 13 years,but it wasn't without one fiasco.

It was the first year of my election as President of the 25 Year Club. Being from down E'port,where almost everybody loved crabs and seafood,I decided to stage a Crab Nite at the Recreation Building.The menu consisted of corn on the cob,steamers,clams on the half shell and crabs and beer. We went to a wholesale fish place and ordered about 50 bushels of crabs. No problem I was told.They were supposed to be delivered at 11 A.M. the nite of the affair.There were five of us waiting for the crabs to be delivered to the Recreation Building.

At 1 P.M. the wholesaler came strolling in with the clams and steamers and said that because of the storm they had at the shore for the last couple of days,there were no crabs available.What to do?There wasn't even enough sand around for me to go and hide.However,my neighbor informed me that the new Pathmark which opened in Elmora was selling shrimp.

I ordered 300 lbs.of shrimp and waited for them to be cooked. I arrived at the Recreation Building an hour late,but saved the day.I was asked many times later,but more in jest,to have another crab party.But I always said thanks,but "no thanks"for another one.

About 1979,I was elected President of the 40 Year Club,better known as the Singer Veteran Employees Association.About two years into that the Singer plant was closing.I started an outside club to help our seniors to somehow stay together so we could meet and talk of the good old times, and the good times we shared together.From a humble beginning there was no money in the treasury and about 75 members in the club.We decided to allow employees with 30 years of service to join the club and then we went down to 20 years.

We now have grown to a membership of over 500 people and a good sum of money is now in the treasury.Now we can operate without having any problems.We have asked and received great cooperation and help from The Singer Company in obtaining money to aid us in our operating expenses.So,some of the success of the club belongs to the company,and the rest to our great bunch of members,who are only too happy to do what we ask of them.

Pres.Lou Young (Yanulavich)
SINGER VETERAN EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Lutwins Hall was the biggest social hall available downtown for Lithuanians for their activities. In the rear of the building was the accommoding place for gatherings and on the right,picnic grounds.

Photo-Courtesy Stanley Valatka

LUTWINS SOCIAL HALL

August Lutwin(Litvinas), a Lithuanian business man, conducted a tavern and operated a large hall or ball-room on South Park Street and Front Street, in the city of Elizabeth,N.J., as a social center for a number of years for the Lithuanian people and other national groups.

Lithuanian Building and Loan Association, founded in 1913, in the parish hall of Sts.Peter and Paul Lithuanian Church(Ripley Place) moved and conducted its financial affairs at the social hall at Lutwin's, after leaving the Mack building on First Street.

Mr.Lutwin held the position of Treasurer of the Lithuanian B/L Ass'n., for a number of years and William Brazinski(kas),also a Lithuanian, was its Secretary. Meetings were held every fourth Wednesday of the month. A fine of 25 cents was assessed if the shareholder failed to pay his or her dues on time.

If a members' deposit was not available on time,Mr.Lutwin would accept the money at the tavern during the week and this transaction was credited as deposit for the month. This procedure was later abandoned. All fiscal business' were turned over to the Secretary.

To reach Lutwins main social hall, a person had to climb a flight of stairs to gain entrance. It was the biggest hall available downtown for Lithuanians for their activities. There were banquets, dances, wedding receptions, wrestling exhibitions, boxing matches,Lithuanian language classes, Church bazaars, Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School program exercises and other wholesome entertainment.

Orchestra musicians had a place to practice with their music instruments.(Yours truly,WS, gave his first violin recital on the stage at Lutwins during a school program.)

Lithuanian Liberty Hall on Second Street, opened its facilities in 1924. The Lithuanian people through stock purchase availed themselves of a new era of club ownership as shareholders. Lithuanian Building and Loan Ass'n., moved to Lithuanian Liberty Hall, 269-273 Second St. Lutwins Hall then lost its appeal and popularity.

Due to a fire, Lutwin's Hall had a major catastrophe. The establishment had to be torned down.

With the passing of time, August Lutwin conducted a small tavern business in the neighborhood.

Source-Helen(Lutwin)Barlett
(Daughter)

March, 1983

May 3,1983

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE U.S.A. ELIZABETH CHAPTER

For political, economic, and other reasons, the number of Lithuanians living in countries other than Lithuania is rather large, - about one third of the nation. The greatest number of Lithuanian emigrants resides in the United States where 1950 census listed 397,950 while in 1960 there where 402, 846. In other countries their numbers are smaller: Canada had in 1961 - 27,629; in Brazil there are about 50,000; in Argentina about 30,000; in England and Scotland about 20,000; in Uruguay about 6,000. Lithuanian emigrants themselves do not conduct their own census.

It has generally been the practices of Lithuanians living in a foreign land to establish their own parishes, schools, societies and clubs, fraternal associations, newspapers and systematic cooperation of Lithuanian emigrants in the United States among themselves was begun.

The Community received its start after World War II in Germany, where about 68,000 Lithuanian refugees had fled from the persecution and terror of the Soviet occupation. The founding fathers created the World Lithuanian Community with these objectives:

1. to preserve the health and strength of the Lithuanians abroad;
2. to safeguard the good name of Lithuanians;
3. to effect the preparation of refugees for appropriate professions and disciplines in the new environment;
4. to foster a national solidarity, a democratic consciousness and a love of work.

This community organized Lithuanian schools, and promoted the cause to free Lithuania from Soviet-Russian oppression.

The Lithuanian Charter is composed of an introduction and 13 articles. The introduction recalls the eternal goals of the Lithuanian nation: to live in freedom and independence in the land of their ancestors, to preserve their own national life, to cherish their own language, and to create national traditions and culture, thereby fulfilling the Will of the Almighty and the vocation of the free man for the betterment of mankind. In pursuit of these goals

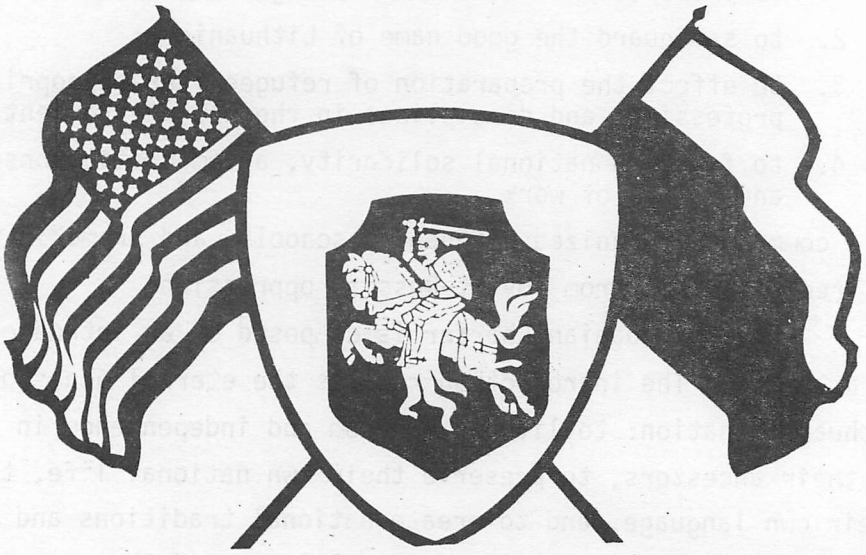
the Lithuanians scattered throughout the world formed a United World of Lithuanian Community.

An Elizabeth Chapter was formed in the early 1950's. Members of Lithuanian American Community are held together by centuries - old historical or hereditary bonds of language, customs, culture, a common way of life, etc. These traits give to the universality of the Community: it is open to every Lithuanian, because it is based on national origin, and does not set any ideological, tendential, professional or other specific requirements for membership.

The second essential characteristic is its organized efforts to keep Lithuanians nationally alive. For this purpose there are institutions of education and national culture. To stimulate and develop national consciousness is the main object of the Community because one remains in his nation when one grows into its spirit. However, this does not mean a chauvinistic isolation from the American culture - on the contrary, Lithuanians living in America in their lives and activities bring together and harmonize the two cultures.

J.V.

AMERICAN FLAG Colors- RED, WHITE and BLUE with 50 stars



LITHUANIAN FLAG Colors- RED, GREEN and YELLOW

VYTAUTAS THE GREAT

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL HERO

The Lithuanian-American Community of Elizabeth,N.J., has/had professionals living here who contributed tothe welfare and goodwill to the citizens ofElizabeth,and they themselves found pleasant work among the people of this city. We humbly present names of former residents,present living individuals & who are now deceased.

Physicans-Medical Doctors	Dr.Anthony Bacevicius(First known Lithuanian practicing doctor in Elizabeth), Dr.Anthony Schilling(Schillingas), Dr.Joseph J.Butenas, Dr.Stasys Petrauskas, Dr.Francis Bagdonavicius, Dr.Vytautas Avizonis, Dr.Eric Javel (Dzvielis),Dr.George Markowitz.
Dentist	Dr.William F.Blazis, Dr.Albert A.Degutis
Pharmacist-Druggist	George Ketelus,Sr., Herbert Budrecki, Casey Aklonis, Joseph Adams
Attorneys-at-law Lawyers	Charles J.Grinchis, John A.Patrick(Petrikas), Jeffrey Mackevich.
Ph.D	Dr.Algirdas M.Budreckis, Dr.John C.Brasunas,Jr.
Historians	Dr.Algirdas M.Budreckis, William A.Senkus
Educators-Teachers	Stephanie E.Laucius(Director of Secondary Public High School Education in Elizabeth), Magdaline Laucius, Ruth(Laucius)Brazinski, Veronica Makutenas, Francis Javil(Dzvielis)and Casey Grygotis,both instructors at college; Daniel Gaines, William Butkus,Julius Velbaitis,Joseph Waitkewitz,(instructors at public high schools; Raymond Bitenas, Aloyzas Rudzitas; John G.Barcas and George Baron,industrial instructors.
Librarian	Estelle Noak
Morticians-Undertakers	Dominick Brazinskas(First known Lithuanian mortician in Elizabeth), Adolph Brazinski(Son of Dominick Brazinskas), Bart Brazinski(Son of Adolph Brazinski),whe is in partnership with Jimmy Gordon),Edward E.Patrick(Petrikas).
Chemestry	Dr.Joseph Laucius, Dr.John Akulonis.
Engineers	Dr.Anton De Sales Brasunas,Professor-Metalurgical; Joseph Ruzga,Mechanigal,Julian Laucius,Research and Engineering;John Richards(Bagocius), George Budris,Jr. Joseph Strimaitis, Charles Brazinski,Chemical; Justin Paulauskas,Public Engineer ; Stanley Paulauskas, Chemical; Chester Lignugaris, William Garby, Frank Shimonis, Stanley Karalevich,Vito Patrick(Petrucionis), Casimir Lazickas,Arthur Seikunas,Walter Zabarauskas,Jr. George Ketelus,
U.S.Post Office	Postmaster Joseph Garby(Garbacauskas) Letter Carriers-Peter Kasilionis, Walter Yuknavich

Laboratory Technician	Vincent Laucius, Adolph Lignugaris
X-Ray Technician	Joseph Barcas
Medical Laboratory	Yvonne Karalis
Medical Student	Peter Barcas, Jr.
Medical Records	June (Jakimavicius) Szczepanski
Elizabeth Police Dept.	Det. George Wycosky (Vitkauskas), Det. Algerd Galinis, Joseph Wycosky, Blaze Buza, William Newallis, Walter Drescher, John Tickens, Sr.
N.J. State Highway Patrol	Trooper Stanley Gedman (Gedminas).
Elizabeth Fire Dept.	Deputy Chief Raymond Zabita, Jack Mattis (Matulaitis), Ferdinand Grygotis, William Shimonis, Joseph Matuzas, Victor Grygoza, Vince Yusko,
Craftsman	Stanley Valata (Constructed Lithuanian Wayside Cross in Elizabeth in 1946).
"	Albinas Stukas - ditto - in 1983
Accountants	John Krusis, Joseph Akulonis, Jr., Anthony Delasey, Frank Sheban (Sabunas).
State Dept. (Wash. D.C.)	John A. Barcas
Justice Dept.	Bronius Mogenis, Jr.
Insurance Actuary	Barni Brazaitis
Internal Revenue Service (IRS)	Anthony Zvirblis, Joseph Zvirblis
Advertising Executives Painting Artist	Albert Mack (Mackevich), Walter Budreckis, Theophilius Petraitis
Commercial Photographers	Joseph Robinsky (Rabinskas), Sylvester Brazinski, Herbert Budrecki
Designer	Bonaventure Joseph Linkus
Eagle Boy Scout	Anthony Plungis (First Lithuanian boy scout in Elizabeth to attain this rank).
Cub Scouting	Joseph Leikauskas

Youth Program Director (Pioneer Club)	Joseph Patalkis
Minstrel Show Directors	Anthony(Spike)Pinkin, Charles Oskutis
Industrial Research	Anthony Matuzas,Mgr.Research Technology; Frank Ruzga, Alexander Balandis, Frank Dudis, Anthony Vactor,Peter Paciunas
Banking Personnel	Simon Mack(Makauskas), Peter L.Mack,(son of Simon Makauskas), was former Vice-President of Elizabethport Banking Co., the bank later was renamed Summit and Elizabeth Trust Co.;Raymond Mack, son of Peter L.Mack;Donna Aronis, in charge of the loan Department at Summit and Elizabeth Trust and is assistant Treasurer of Liberty Savings & Loan Ass'n.,(Formerly Lithuanian S.& L. Ass'n.) George Budris,Treasurer of former Lithuanian S.&L. Ass'n. for more than 35 years, was succeded by William A.Senkus, who served for 20 years.
Simmons Co., Credit Union	Chester W.Grynis, Secretary
Orchestras & Their Leaders	Lawrence Paulauskas, Johnny Allen, Steve Potts, Duke Clemens(Petrovic), Joe Aklon,Frank Sorako Anthony Rusteika,Sr.
Violinist	Peter Gwaldis, Frank Sorako,Julius Veblaitis John Rusteika
Church Soloist - Sts.Peter & Paul Church	Eva Baublis, Joseph Zalionis, Vera Franskietis, Simon Venskus, Dominic Petrucionis, Genevieve (Paulauskas) Pocius, Caroline(Miskinis)Farley, Gene Baranauskas-Baron,Felix Puzinas, Alphonse Zvirblys, Irene Mogenis, Juliana(Peskus) Liana, Boleslaw Miskinis, Veronica Krezonis
Newspaper Editor	John Zvirblis
Organist	Anthony Rusteika,Jr.

William A. Senkus was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on December 18, 1911. He graduated from Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School in Elizabeth in 1926(Served as Altar Boy at Mass for 4 years), under Pastor,Rev.Bartholemew Zindzius and Pastor ,Rev.Joseph Simonaitis.

With the opening of the new Thomas Jefferson H.S.,Elizabeth in 1929, he graduated the school in 1930,(Now a satellite of Elizath High School). In addition he attended Drake Business School and Battin H.S. for commercial courses. After the family moved to Linden in July, 1976, Senkus studied evenings at Linden,H.S. and during the day received instructions from college professors at Senior Citizens' Centers.

Bill Senkus and Ann Barcas was married by Rt.Rev.Msgr.Michael G. Kemezis, pastor,in Sts.Peter and Paul(Lithuanian) R.C. Church,Elizabeth,N.J. They have one son.

Senkus was elected President of the Church Choir in 1946. His membership lasted from 1929 to 1955 when Composer Juozas Zilevicius, was serving as organist.

He was also President of the Holy Name Society in 1948-1949 and later served as vice-president from 1980 to 1983. Ann and Bill Senkus are both members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society and the membership meets every First Friday of the month for church services. In 1982 and 1983, both received certificates for perfect attendance.

After graduating Thomas Jefferson H.S. and in the following year 1931 Senkus was invited by the Liberty Boys Athletic Club to become their secretary. He held this position in 1931 and 1932 until the Great Depression folded the activities of the club.

Wm.Senkus began working at The Singer Co.(Sewing Machine Plant) in Elizabeth in March of 1934 to January 1,1977(42 years). The factory closed all production in 1982 and after 109 years as an employer, Singer left the Elizabeth, NJ.,plant permanently.

William Senkus joined the Elizabeth Council 52(Chapter), Knights of Lithuania organization in 1938. He has a 45 year membership(1984) and is a fourth degree member. He was the council's financial secretary from 1941 to 1943; treasurer from 1947 to 1949; committee treasurer in 1949 for the 36th National Knights of Lithuania Convention held in Elizabeth and was chairman of the exhibition of Lithuanian Art in con-junction with the convention.

In March,1984, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Saint Casimir of Lithuania(1484-1984) and St.Casimir also being the patron saint of the Knights of Lithuania organization, Senkus compiled the K.of L.Council 52 history and was published.

W.Senkus also submitted notices to newspapers for years and kept a record of various Lithuanian activities and memorabilia.

Bill Senkus was secretary of Liberty Hall Association(Elizabeth), serving from 1941 to 1943 and also from 1962 to 1963. He was vice-president from 1953 to 1960. Senkus wrote about the Lithuanian Liberty Hall's mortgage burning celebration in 1954. He compiled the history of the Lithuanian Liberty Hall, in 1981, covering a period from 1924 to 1979. The association was terminated in 1980 when the building was sold.

Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School's 50th anniversary celebration was written by W.Senkus in 1963.

Lithuanian S.&L. Association's 50th anniversary and celebration was also written by Senkus in 1963, which he served as Treasurer for 20 years.

Liberty S.&L. Association's 70th anniversary,founded in 1913, was written by W.Senkus in 1983; he served as Director for 10 years.

William Senkus joined the Linden Retired Men's Club in March, 1977, became the club's recording and correspondent secretary in May, 1977 and still holds this position in 1984.

WILLIAM A. SENKUS

In 1980 and 1982, at a Senior Citizen's Day celebration, William Senkus received a certificate for each year, "acknowledging his outstanding services to Senior Citizens and the community", in Linden,N.J.

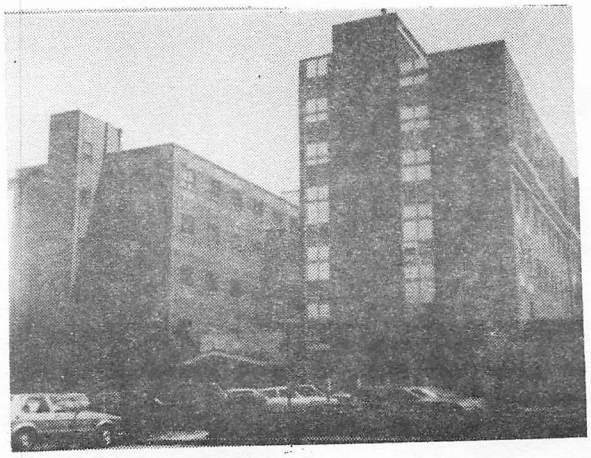
In 1981, Bill Senkus became an Honorary Life Member of the Knights of Columbus, Dean Martin Gessner Gessner Council 3310, in Elizabeth.

W.Senkus was treasurer of Cub Scout Troup #16, which was sponsored by the Mothers Den of Sts.Peter and Paul Grammar School.

To further his education, Senkus attended Union County College,in Cranford,N.J., Pace Institute(Now a University) and New York University.

One day a week, for 5 years, Wm.Senkus volunteers his services at Alexian Brothers Hospital.

Alexian Brothers Hospital Elizabeth N.J.



LITHUANIAN CHRISTMAS TREE
Surrounded by Elizabeth,N.J.
girls in their native costumes

Eglutė lietuvių parodoje Elizabeth, N. J.

V. Maželio nuotr.

LITHUANIA------ was a great empire. Its people have strong national tradition and rich culture. Their language is one of the oldest living tongues in Europe. Many Lithuanians have fled their homeland to live in other countries. There are more than a million persons of Lithuanian descent in the United States.

Source: The World Book Encyclopedia
(Volume 12)

Lithuania, formerly an independent country, is now one of the republics of the USSR. LIETUVA is the Lithuanian name.

The Lithuanians are a distinctive ethnic group of the Baltic region of the Indo-European family of languages.

Source: Encyclopedia Americana
(Volume 17)